Senate majority blocks adoption of Manapat report

Story on PAGE A2

Bush asks US Congress to hike RP aid to $164M

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT George Bush has asked the United States Congress to increase to $164.1 million US economic and military assistance to the Philippines in his budget proposal for 2005, the Philippine Embassy in Washington said.

The proposed $164.1 million US aid to

BUSH/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARL[illegible] VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

February 8, 2004 ★★ 88 80 pages / 10 sections / vol. 19 / no. 62 P15

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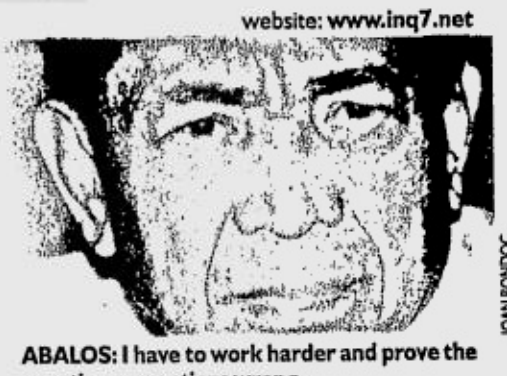
Abalos won't quit

Comelec chief hangs tough, says it's his duty to stay



JOAN BONDOC

ABALOS: I have to work harder and prove the negative perceptions wrong.

By Martin P. Marfil

COMMISSION on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos is hanging tough despite a survey showing that only 25 percent of registered voters had "much trust" and a "dominant" 32 percent had "little trust" in him.

"Some want me out but I am a stubborn [public] servant and will continue to serve the Comelec. The easiest way out of this mess is to get out but I am [duty-bound] to oversee this election," Abalos said yesterday when asked to comment on the results of the January 2004 pre-election survey of the Social Weather Stations.

"That is not mere rhetoric," he added.

Asked who were those who wanted him out, Abalos said the Makati Business Club (MBC) was among them and he did not know why.

The same survey results, which were released on Thursday, showed that 58 percent of voters perceived corruption in the Comelec's contract with the Mega Pacific consortium for automated vote-counting machines, a P1.3-billion deal that the Supreme Court voided on grounds of irregularities.

Calls for Abalos' resignation were first aired by lawmakers, followed by the MBC, in the wake of the high court's ruling on Jan. 13. Graft charges were also filed against the Comelec officials for the alleged irregularities in the awarding of the contract to the consortium.

The junking of the contract forced the Comelec to scrap the planned automated elections and shift preparations for the outdated manual system.

Abalos refused to resign.

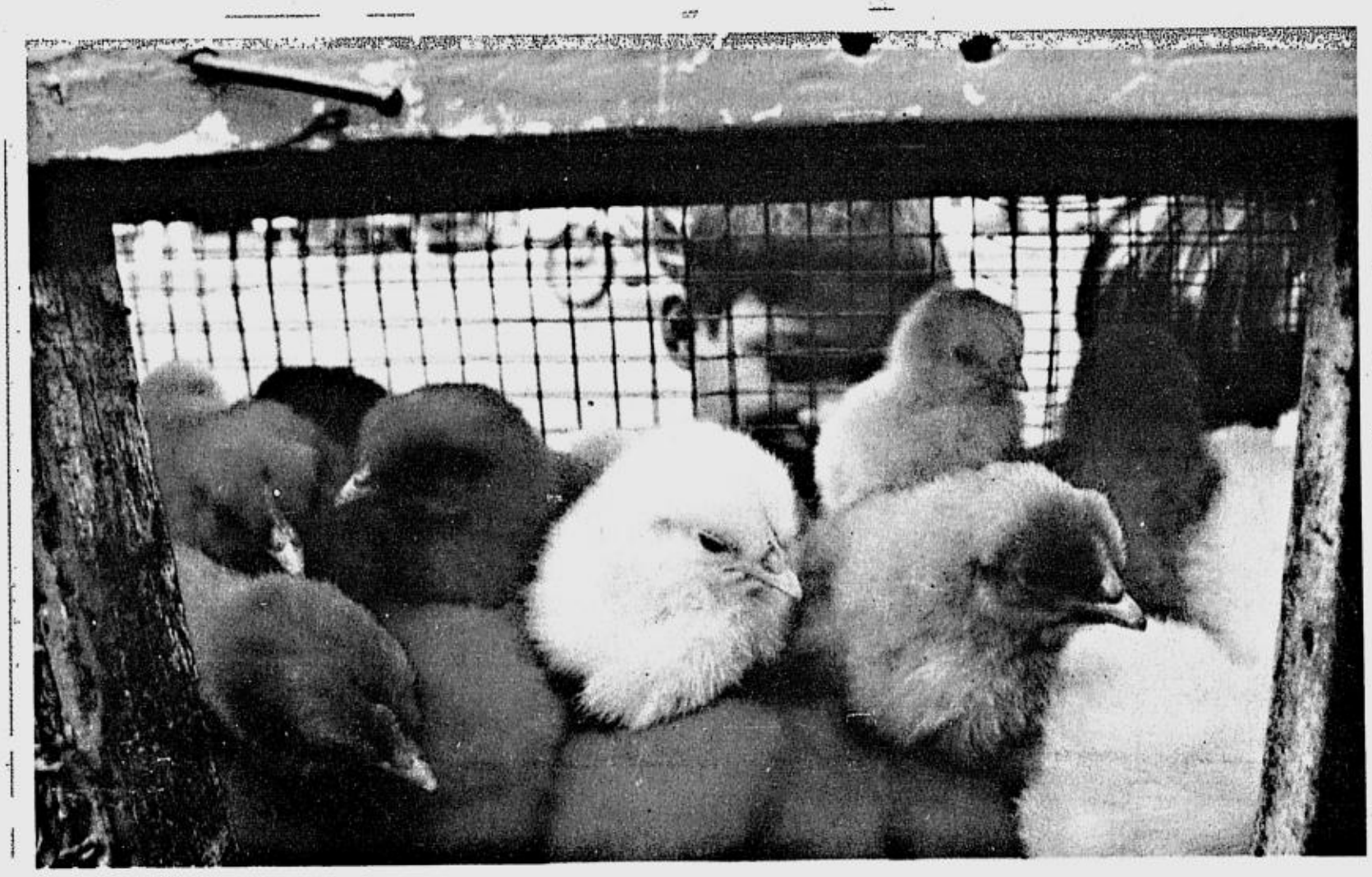
For Abalos, the results of the SWS survey were a puzzle. He said he did not know where these were coming from.

"That's the way it is. Now I have to work harder and prove to them that they are wrong," he said when asked how he planned to counter the negative perception.

By Abalos' reckoning, the negative perception of him stems from the nullification of the contract for the supply of more than 2,000 automated counting machines.

He pointed out that he was not even

ABALOS/ A21



EPA

COLOR THEM GRIM
Perhaps mindful of the bird flu, an enterprising sidewalk vendor spray paints these chicks to attract customers even as President Macapagal has created a crisis committee and earmarked P250 million as standby fund to fight the deadly virus which has so far infected 10 Asian countries: China, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, South Korea and Taiwan. The government has banned poultry imports from the affected areas.

Through Aussie eyes, RP a breathless democracy

By Celina Ribeiro

(Editor's Note: The author is a graduating journalism student at Australia's Sydney University who is in the country on a six-week Ken and Yasuko Myers Fellowship.)

COMMENTARY

THE PHILIPPINES is a breathless democracy.

The country has hardly ceased running since the collapse of martial law almost 18 years ago. But while panting and puffing, it defiantly continues to suck in breath after breath as it prepares to face another fork in the bumpy road—the 2004 national elections.

At first glance, Philippine politics at election time is as noisy, chaotic and scary as Philippine roads. To the untrained eye there is no rule nor rhythm which commands obedience to any authority. All structures and norms seem to be willingly abandoned en masse as soon as the first driver decides that he is tired of waiting and steers into oncoming traffic.

Such are the first impressions of a foreigner. Color. Controversy. Chaos. The only thing that appears certain, more certain than the opening of polling booths on May 10, is that the elections of 2004 will be a spectacle.

Before the campaign season has even officially begun, the election has already monopolized the attention of the population. Little escapes controversy in Filipino politics. So far the voting public has witnessed the last-

THROUGH/ A21

RUDY ESPERAS

"STRANGER in a Strange Land," that's how Paul Farbon with the "exuberance of the Filipino," calls his own custom-built jeepney, which is a Filipiniana showcase on wheels.

9-COUNTRY TOUR

UK teacher to drive jeepney to England

By Volt Contreras

IMAGINE him behind the wheel, stuck in a bloody traffic jam in Quiapo while barking at possible passengers and deftly groping for loose change.

Englishman Paul Farbon, an Oxford-trained agriculturist and environmental activist, has been so charmed by the Pinoy jeepney that he recently bought one to take home.

But instead of having the vehicle shipped, Farbon, 42, will proudly drive it across parts of Southeast Asia, China's Gobi Desert, Russia and parts of Europe.

Brandishing a business card saying he is the "one-man" Jeepney Promotion Foundation, he hopes to wow crowds of various cultures with his diesel-powered, turbo-charged baby that he has registered with the name "Stranger in a Strange Land."

"I've been fascinated by many aspects of Filipino culture, especially the jeepney... It's not only the design but also the *pakikisama* (camaraderie)" that goes with riding in it, said Farbon, who speaks Filipino with considerable ease.

His jeepney, which was made in a shop in Baguio and custom-built to suit his height and his travel needs, sports the Philippine colors and assorted folk designs.

It is scheduled to leave Manila for Bangkok in a container ship on Feb. 10.

From the Thai capital, Farbon and two companions will use the jeepney to enter countries along their route, stopping over in areas where his colleagues in the Volunteer Service Overseas are stationed. (The United Kingdom's VSO is considered the equivalent of the US Peace Corps.)

The whole trip may take at least three months, "provided border crossings go smoothly," said Farbon, who teaches environmental issues at an elementary school in his hometown of Norwich in England.

"Maybe I should bring a lot of San Miguel beer with me to give to customs officials," he told the INQUIRER in jest last week in Quezon City.

Before he got his teaching job three years ago, Farbon had been in and out of the Philippines since 1991, when he first worked as an agricultural adviser for a nongovernment organization serving farmers in Occidental Mindoro.

By 1999 he had spoken in conferences organized by the Haribon Foundation,

UK TEACHER/ A4

Loren: Me a security threat?

By Cynthia D. Balana

"A SECURITY risk? Who me?" Sen. Loren Legarda said in exasperation yesterday in reaction to the claim of former intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus that she was a dangerous woman because she was "waltzing" with enemies of the state.

"How can I be a security threat. I am a national security expert. The alumni association of the National Defense College of the Philippines rallied behind me. No generals concurred with his opinion in the

LOREN/ A21

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SecondFRONTPAGE

Palace: What election posters?

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

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The Comelec asked Ms Macapagal, former Sen. Raul Roco, action star Fernando Poe Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson to explain why they should not be disqualified for premature campaigning.

Roco dared the Comelec to charge Ms Macapagal, whom he said was using government resources to promote her candidacy.

"The Office of the President is prepared to answer the issue of premature campaigning in the proper forum," Bunye said.

However, Bunye did not specify what these "development-oriented information materials" are.

With a report from AFP

Senate majority blocks report against Manapat

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE MAJORITY bloc at the Senate blocked on Friday night the adoption of a Senate committee report which recommended the slapping of several charges against former National Archives chief Ricardo Manapat for fabricating documents against opposition standard bearer Fernando Poe Jr.

Senate President Franklin Drilon stressed that the report was not deemed adopted by the Senate because the committee failed to get a majority, in this case the vote of 10 senators. Friday was the last session of Congress.

Opposition senators, however, insisted that the committee report was adopted by a unanimous vote.

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With 18 senators present, nine senators (all from the minority, except for Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier) voted for the report's adoption while nine others (all majority) abstained from voting.

Drilon as well as Sen. Joker Arroyo and Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan explained that the majority bloc decided to abstain from voting because they had yet to study the contents of the committee report that was only provided to them that night.

"We didn't have time to examine the report which is more than 100 pages. So how can we propose amendments and how can you expect us to vote intelligently?" the Senate president said.

But opposition senators led by Minority Leader Sen. Vicente Sotto and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., insisted the report had been adopted because not only did no senator cast a negative vote but nine others voted to support it, and thus there was a unanimous vote for the report.

In an interview, Sotto refused to accept Drilon's position that it was a "tie" and that the report was not adopted.

Sotto said that parliamentary procedure was "blatantly disregarded" in Friday night's session. He threatened to seek the reconsideration of all bills that were passed that night if the majority bloc continues to insist on its position.

"This is going to be a crisis if the abstention vote wins," Sotto warned. "By their (majority) actions, it was just confirmed that Malacañang is behind Manapat," he added.

The senators are squabbling over the committee report that recommended the filing of charges against Manapat and the disbarment of lawyer Victorino Fornier for perjury and falsification of public documents against Poe.

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Indeed, senators attested that a heated argument ensued after the voting.

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The senators then cast their votes, 9-0-9 after which Angara stated that the report was deemed adopted. But Drilon disagreed, stating the committee should have gotten 10 votes to carry it.

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Since there were 18 senators present, he said the majority vote called for 50 percent of the senators plus one more senator.

"The Manapat report is without value because the Senate in plenary did not adopt it," Arroyo said.

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., also agreed the report was "not considered an official Senate report." "It's just like any document," he said.

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Palace welcomes dismissal of FPJ disqualification suit

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Martin P. Marfil

MALACAÑANG yesterday welcomed the final dismissal by the Commission on Elections of the disqualification case against opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., saying President Macapagal-Arroyo is not afraid to face anyone in the May election.

"We welcome and respect the Comelec's decision. The Palace has never been involved in this issue," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Bunye told RMN radio that it was up to the complainants to elevate their case against Poe to the Supreme Court.

"There are questions about his citizenship. But Malacañang is focused on governance and pursuit of programs to help our people," Bunye said when asked if Malacañang thinks the disqualification case stands a chance in the high court.

Asked if Malacañang believes the final resolution of the Poe citizenship issue would be good for all parties, Bunye said: "Well, an early resolution would be good for our people. But the President is wiling to face any and all her opponents in this coming presidential campaign."

Unanimous vote

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But the Comelec dismissed Fornier's claim, saying the petitioner failed to prove that Poe's material misrepresentation was deliberate.

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He also said the Comelec committed "grave abuse of discretion" because it failed to assume jurisdiction over the disqualification case and for failing to declare that Poe was not a natural-born Filipino based on evidence presented by both parties.

The lawyer reiterated that Poe was born in 1939 while his parents were married in 1940.

GMA gets their vote but only if Obet is out

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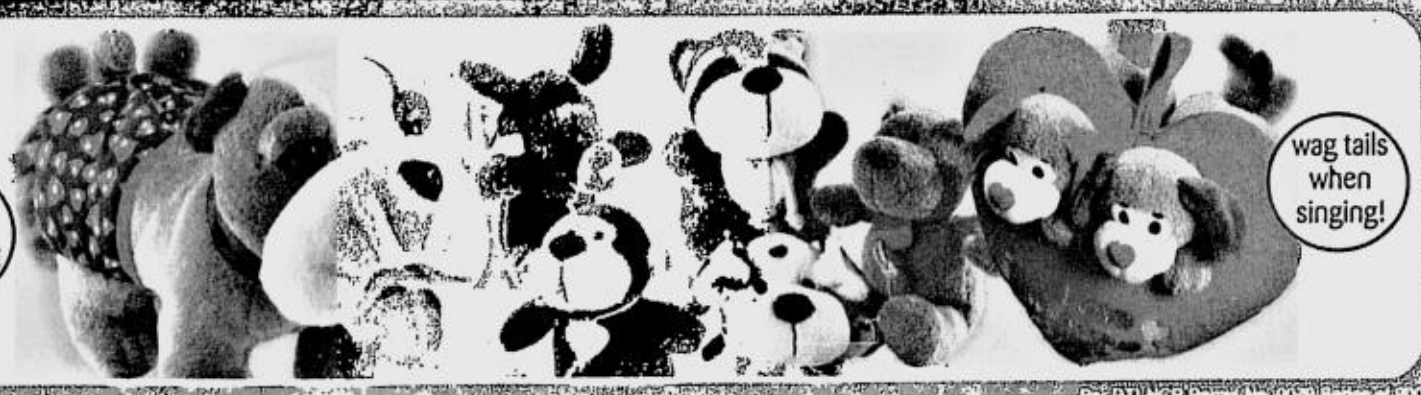

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UK teacher to drive jeepney to England

From page A1

World Wildlife Philippines, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and local government units.

It was in the Mindoro towns that Farbon became fascinated with the jeepney and the endearing Filipino values it has spawned.

He wants to know: Where else in the world can you find a public vehicle with a friendly pilot who can do a whole lot of other favors for the whole village?

In a neighborhood where he once stayed, for example, "you can give the driver a grocery list or ask him to mail a letter for you," Farbon said.

He said the mere sight of people extending their hands to pass on someone else's fare to the driver touched him profoundly.

"Everybody makes space for old women and small children; there always seems to be room for one more," he observed.

And it's also quite easy for jeepney passengers, even total strangers, to make conversation, he said, adding that such geniality on the road "would be good for the English people who are known for being reserved, always with ice to break."

Passionate defender

Not surprisingly, Farbon is proving to be a passionate defender of the country's original "King of the Road" against those who think this noisy, gaudy means of transport should be phased out in a modern metropolis.

"I learned from websites that the jeepney is already considered an endangered species, that the government wanted to ban it for more people to use FX (taxis)," he said. "I find it difficult to understand why the jeepney has gotten a bad image, because for me it's still a sustainable mode of transport and convenient for a dense network of roads [like in Metro Manila]."

If the problem is the polluting exhaust, Farbon argued, "it's not the jeepney itself that should go; it's the overused, second-hand engines and fuel that should be improved."

A single jeepney can fit in as many passengers as several taxis can hold, and, unlike a bus, can negotiate narrow streets and sharp turns, he further noted.

"It's not out of date," he insisted. "It's cheap, and remains truly for the *masa*."

Filipiniana showcase

But, of course, Farbon fell primarily for the jeepney's flamboyant, if garish, looks.

"The decoration is all about individuality, and the exuberance of the Filipino," he said. "The driver treats it like it's his home, and sometimes actually hangs a sign saying 'Welcome to My World.'"

And he has made his own jeepney (license plate AHG-481) his canvas, sparing no expense at making sure that his prized possession would face the world with all the works.

It's now a rolling showcase of Filipiniana—the technicolor body sports air-brushed images of the Banaue Rice Terraces, the Philippine Eagle, the carabao and the kingfisher; the upholstery is covered with Ifugao weaving; a rattan *tampipi* lies beneath the driver's seat.

The front fender proclaims that such a creature exists "Only in the Philippines."

Long haul

The jeepney's odyssey will take it through Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, China, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Russia, Poland and Germany. From the European continent, it will be ferried across the English Channel to its final destination: Farbon's garage.

Fabron has prepared for the long haul. He had a water tank fixed on the jeepney's roof and made the passenger seats collapsible to double as a folding bed. Two wooden cabinets are also installed next to the seats, like mini-bars.

His company? A female friend, also from the UK, and a Frenchman who will film the entire journey.

They plan to put up a webpage for updates on the trip. During stopovers, they will meet up with friends and fellow advocates in towns or cities where there are raging environmental issues.

Fabron clarified that his would not be the first Pinoy jeepney to touch UK soil. He said he knew of at least two earlier arrivals, which had become objects of curiosity in the streets.

In the late 60s, a team of Filipino rally drivers brought a jeepney to London and drove it to Manila. Aptly called the London-Manila Express, the trip went over a different route, passing through the dangerous (then and now) Khyber Pass in Afghanistan.

FASCINATED by Filipino culture, Englishman Paul Farbon shows off his jeepney's interior with collapsible passenger seats upholstered in Ifugao weave that double as folding bed. Note cabinet cum mini bar at the foot of the bed. RUDY ESPERAS

Treasure on wheels

Smiling, Fabron said he would not only use his jeepney to get around town but also put it up for rent, "like a wedding car."

"I have to recoup the cost, you know," he said.

Farbon said he returned to the Philippines last October just to search for a jeepney to bring home.

He found what he wanted in the Baguio shop called "Mike and Kids." He said it cost him over P400,000.

In the interim, he secured the necessary travel and export permits, and made time to meet up with the locals he once worked with in Mindoro, where he said he had three godchildren.

He hopes to be back in the Philippines in 2007.

Before he sets off, Farbon will try to get those vintage miniature horses cast in stainless steel—the sort that adorns the hood of older jeepney models.

"They're now considered antiques, I was told," he said.

In lieu of other ornaments, he had his jeepney's hood painted to form the Philippine flag.

"It's ironic that most Filipino jeepneys have the American flag on them," he noted, not quite understanding the lack of native pride over what he, with foreign eyes, adores as a cultural treasure on wheels.

Bush asks US Congress . . .

From page A1

the country that Bush described as "our steadfast ally in Asia against terrorism" represents a $37.3 million increase from Bush's request for assistance to the Philippines in fiscal year 2004.

"The budget request covers a wide range of programs such as poverty alleviation, good governance, development, counter-terrorism, law enforcement and health, among others," Ambassador Albert del Rosario said in an e-mail message to the INQUIRER.

"Its most significant feature is US funding support for the peace process in Mindanao and the region's development especially in light of the expected resumption of the government's peace talks with the [Moro Islamic Liberation Front]," he said.

The Philippine Embassy presented the following breakdown of the $164.1 million budget request: $35 million in economic support funds (ESF), an increase of $15 million over the 2004 request; $30 million in foreign military financing (FMF), an increase of $13 million; $26.1 million in development assistance, an increase of $3 million; $28 million in child survival and health funds, an increase of $6 million; $3 million in international military education and training (IMET), an increase of $300,000; and $2 million in international narcotics control funding (INCLE) which is the same as the 2004 level.

Frontline ally

Del Rosario said the increased budget request re-affirmed Washington's recognition of the Philippines' vital role as a "frontline" ally in the global war on terror.

"The string of victories scored by our military and police authorities—such as the diminution of the Abu Sayyaf's strength and capability, the killing of Abu Sabaya and Jemaah Islamiyah key operative Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and the capture of Commander Robot—has enhanced the Bush administration's confidence in our resolve to fight terror," Del Rosario said.

"These successes also showed that with US assistance, we can do the job ourselves," he said.

The ambassador said that under the 2005 budget request, about half of the $35 million in ESF for the Philippines will be used "to continue existing programs devoted to economic reform, good governance, and poverty alleviation, particularly for former Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) combatants and their families in Mindanao."

The other half will be used "to extend these programs to an additional 12,000 combatants of the MILF."

The $30 million in FMF will be utilized in the "long-term, multi-year" plan for modernizing and reforming the Armed Forces and to reinforce the counter-terrorism training of Philippine military forces instituted after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the US, said Del Rosario.

The proposed budget under the INCLE program will be used for "providing equipment and technical assistance geared towards law enforcement, judicial reform and forensic documentation procedures, including implementing an automated fingerprint identification system."

In his address before a joint session of the Philippine Congress during his one-day state visit here last October, Bush said Washington would provide technical assistance, field expertise and funding to a five-year plan to modernize and reform the Armed Forces.

Bigger beneficiary

The US Embassy said then that the Philippines was the biggest beneficiary of US military aid in Southeast Asia.

According to a fact sheet released by the Joint US Military Assistance Group (Jusmag) during Bush's visit, US military aid to the Philippines increased from $38.03 million in 2001 to $94.50 million in 2002 and $114.46 million in 2003.

Separate figures released by the US Embassy said that US government assistance and payments to the Philippines in fiscal year 2003 amounted to $808.2 million.

Of this amount, $505,498 or 62.5 percent was in the form of direct assistance and payments. Indirect assistance and payments accounted for 302,732, or 37.5 percent.

Benefits paid to the Philippines and its citizens accounted for the biggest share (33 percent) of the assistance and payments, followed by export credit guarantees (27 percent), technical assistance (12 percent) and grants (11 percent).

Counter-terrorism and law enforcement programs received only one percent of US assistance and payments. But the Bush administration said it intended to pour $10 million into the Philippines in 2003 to enhance the country's anti-terrorism capabilities.

$50M for Mindanao

Amid reports last year that formal talks between the government and the MILF were to resume, President Macapagal-Arroyo and US officials in Manila said Washington had pledged to give $50 million in development funds for Mindanao once a peace agreement was signed—$30 million in 2003 and $20 million in 2004.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone said the US Congress had allocated $30 million in 2003 "to support the peace process" in addition to the $74 million development aid already provided that year through the US Agency International Development (USAID), more than half of which went to Mindanao.

Ms Macapagal said Washington had pledged to give another $20 million this year for Mindanao but only if a peace agreement was signed.

Funds for MILF programs

Last December, John Dalton, deputy chief of the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM), a development agency funded by USAID, said the US-funded MILF programs would be patterned after GEM's successful program for the MNLF initiated soon after the latter signed a peace agreement with the government in 1996.

The GEM program concentrated first on the immediate rehabilitation of MNLF communities through grants and aid and later brought in technology transfer and farming techniques.

But Dalton said that even if the funds have already been earmarked for programs for the MILF, they would remain untouched until the peace agreement was signed.

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PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo presses flesh in Cavite during yesterday's groundbreaking of the $117-million Cavite coast road extension, her pet project when she was just an assistant secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry.

VAL HANDUMON

New Cavite road project launched

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday broke ground for the Manila-Cavite Coastal Road extension project which is expected to relieve Cavite residents of their traffic woes and boost the province's industrialization.

With the $117 million road project, which she claimed had been her pet project since she was a trade assistant secretary assigned to Cavite in 1989, Ms Macapagal tried to make inroads on the acknowledged turf of presidential rival Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"This is a new chapter in the history of Cavite, Calabarzon and the Philippines," Ms Macapagal said.

Ms Macapagal lowered the time capsule to signify the start of the construction of the 11.3 km Manila Cavite Toll Expressway Project, which will stretch the existing highway from Pasay to Zapote to Kawit and on to Noveleta, Cavite.

The project requires the construction of a viaduct traversing Manila Bay from Zapote to Kawit, and from Kawit to Noveleta, adding 11.3 kms to the existing 6.4 km coastal highway. Projected to be finished in two years, the extension is expected to reduce to one hour the traveling time from Coastal Road at the Manila airport junction to Kawit, Cavite.

Children of Cavite

The groundbreaking saw the gathering of famous sons and daughters of Cavite, including the Revilla and Remulla families that have been long-time political enemies.

Ms Macapagal spent half of her speech acknowledging the guests, which included Sen. Ramon Revilla and his son Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. who the President said would be the "next topnotcher" in the senatorial elections; Cavite Gov. Ayong Malicsi, former Cavite Governors Johnny Remulla and Epimaco Velasco, Bacoor Mayor Jessie Castillo, Cavite Rep. Plaridel Abaya, former Sen. Vicente Paterno.

She was also joined by Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita who is the Cabinet Officer for Regional Development for Southern Tagalog, Presidential Adviser on Official Development Assistance Projects Marita Jimenez, and Public Works Undersecretary Ted Encarnacion, who the President said declined to head the DPWH and was instead appointed Cabinet adviser on for key infrastructure projects. Also present were former Prime Minister Cesar Virata who heads the Coastal Road Corp., Public Estates Authority Chair Teodorico Taguinod and a representative of the International Finance Corp. which provides $70 million of the project cost.

GMA brainchild

The coastal road extension project was part of the Cavite Trade and Industry Plan which Ms Macapagal reportedly conceived as trade assistant secretary in 1989.

When she became President, she said she found out that the project had not begun because of bureaucratic, financial and legal problems.

That is why, she said, in her visit to the United States in November 2001, she had negotiations with the Washington-based IFC to finance the project's construction.

IFC will underwrite $70 million of the $117 million cost of the project, with the UEM-MARA Philippines Corp. (UMC) providing the balance. UMPC and Coastal Road Corp. will undertake the project in a joint venture with the Public Estates Authority.

No two Revillas in Senate–Bong

By Jo Clemente
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ACTOR and former Videogram Regulatory Board chair Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. said he would hug his estranged friend, fellow actor and former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, should they both win and meet for the first time on the Senate floor.

"I will hug him," said Revilla, whose friendship with Estrada was strained in 2001 when he supported the Edsa II movement that ousted Estrada's father, former President Joseph Estrada. Revilla was governor of Cavite at that time.

Unlike the younger Estrada, who is running for senator while his mother, Sen. Luisa Estrada, has three more years to her term, Revilla said he is doing so at a time when his father, Sen. Ramon Revilla, exits from the Senate.

"There won't be two Revillas in the Senate because if I win, I would come in exactly when my father's term expires," he said.

But another family member, Revilla's brother-in-law, Sen. Robert Jaworski, is running for reelection, also under the administration's K4 coalition.

When asked by the INQUIRER why there is a need for another Revilla in the Senate, the younger Revilla said he should not be compared with his father.

He said his candidacy should not be seen as a continuation of his father's work because they are two different persons. He said most of the elder Revilla's concerns were in public works because he is the chair of the Senate committee on public works.

Revilla said he would come in with a different set of agenda that would include proposals to improve and uplift the movie and entertainment industry.

He lamented that while there are more and more actors and media personalities being elected to various positions, "not much had been done for the industry."

"But I do not blame them because they want to prove to their critics that they can serve the public and they are not mere actors," he said.

Revilla and Rep. Blanca Kim Bernardo-Lokin of the Cibac party-list group were here on Saturday to attend the city fiesta and hold a dialogue with barangay leaders.

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House declares victory in budget war

By Cynthia D. Balana

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia yesterday said that Senate's approval of the P804-billion reenacted budget in 2003 to finance state requirements was a "major victory" by the House of Representatives as this would prevent an Argentina-type fiscal and debt crisis for this year.

De Venecia said the budget reenactment would result in technical saving of about P60 billion and assured susbstantial savings to finance this year's national elections, overseas voting and salary increase for soldiers.

The savings would also cover the P4 billion to fund the classroom requirements of the education department for 2004, contrary to the claims by those who insisted on the approval of the proposed national budget for this year.

De Venecia brushed aside the charge of opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara that the May elections would have no funds as "well-intentioned but a non-issue."

He also allayed fears of the opposition of large-scale diversion of funds by the President during the election season, saying the Constitution authorizes the Chief Executive to realign funds to ensure the continuing delivery of basic services.

"We are now looking beyond the May elections," De Venecia said. "That is why we in the House want to prevent the eruption of a fiscal and debt crisis of a nature similar to the Argentinian crisis that shattered its people."

DE VENECIA

He cited the "Spartan approach" of the House to the budget, adding that "fiscal discipline tells us that we should live within our means."

De Venecia and Rep. Roland Andaya, chair of the House appropriations committee, said the President wanted the anti-poverty programs in place so urgently to pull the people out of poverty.

The Speaker said the President did not want the government to resort to devaluation and printing of more money.

Congress adjourned its session yesterday and will resume on May 24 for the national canvassing of votes for president, vice president and the senators.

PAYBACK IN MAY POLLS

Congressmen vow revenge on senators

By Carlito Pablo

THE CONGRESSMEN have their hackles up.

They will not be voting for any reelectionist senator, whether with the administration or the opposition, except for Sen. Robert Barbers, in the May 10 elections.

The representatives' reason: The senators sat on more than 1,000 local bills the congressmen needed passed in order to take "something" home to their constituents this election season.

"For the first time, we'll be going home without a single local bill for our respective constituents," griped House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales (Lakas, Mandaluyong).

Gonzales, speaking for the irate lawmakers, said the Senate under the leadership of its president Franklin Drilon has "shown so much insensitivity to our concerns."

"So it's going to be payback time during the elections," he added.

Barbers and four other senators are seeking reelection, namely, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Rodolfo Biazon, Robert Jaworski and John Osmeña.

"Except for Barbers, who fought for the passage of our local bills, all the rest didn't do anything," Gonzales said.

As for himself, Gonzales said, he will be supporting instead the senatorial bids of Reps. Didagen Dilangalen (Maguindanao) and Carlos Padilla (Nueva Vizcaya), former Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas and former Agriculture Secretary Salvador Escudero.

Killing bills

In a separate interview, Rep. Eduardo Antonio Nachura (LP, Western Samar) said most congressmen were fuming because the senators "killed" all the local bills forwarded to them by the House.

Asked if the congressmen would be junking some of the reelectionist senators, Nachura said: "That's what is being talked about here."

Gonzales also accused the Senate of double-crossing the House.

He recalled that House leaders had a series of meetings with Drilon and then Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda on a "trade."

The senators wanted the House to pass the absentee voting bill and the dual citizenship law, and we did that," Gonzales said. "In return, the senators pledged to facilitate the passage of our local bills."

Local bills are pet measures that directly benefit a congressman's constituents or district.

For example, a town clinic might be upgraded to a hospital through such a bill, or a public school to a college.

Gonzales said the congressmen even relaxed their request of the senators and asked them to pass just one local bill for each of the 220 congressmen.

The junking of senatorial bets will not be the only thing in vogue this campaign season, at least for some members of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats.

Junking Noli

Maverick Lakas Rep. Jacinto Paras yesterday said he and other administration congressmen will support opposition vice presidential candidate Sen. Loren Legarda instead of President Macapagal-Arroyo's running mate, Sen. Noli de Castro.

Paras also said a "sizable number" of Lakas legislators will junk Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who is running as a guest candidate in the administration senatorial slate, out of sympathy for "[Heherson] Sonny Alvarez."

Alvarez, former Lakas spokesperson, was bumped off the administration senatorial slate to make way for Santiago, who jumped from the opposition to the administration camp.

"For me personally, Loren is a dear friend and I don't know Noli from anyone," Paras said.

Legarda bolted the Lakas party late last year when it became clear that Ms Macapagal would be running in May and it was unlikely another woman would be chosen as her running mate.

Paras said he had informed the President of his decision to support Legarda.

"The President tried to persuade me to change my mind but this is a personal decision," Paras said.

Paras said that some Lakas leaders would have preferred Senator Barbers, a senior Lakas leader, as the administration's vice presidential candidate.

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House declares victory in budget war

By Cynthia D. Balana

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia yesterday said that Senate's approval of the P804-billion reenacted budget in 2003 to finance state requirements was a "major victory" by the House of Representatives as this would prevent an Argentina-type fiscal and debt crisis for this year.

De Venecia said the budget reenactment would result in technical saving of about P60 billion and assured susbstantial savings to finance this year's national elections, overseas voting and salary increase for soldiers.

The savings would also cover the P4 billion to fund the classroom requirements of the education department for 2004, contrary to the claims by those who insisted on the approval of the proposed national budget for this year.

De Venecia brushed aside the charge of opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara that the May elections would have no funds as "well-intentioned but a non-issue."

He also allayed fears of the opposition of large-scale diversion of funds by the President during the election season, saying the Constitution authorizes the Chief Executive to realign funds to ensure the continuing delivery of basic services.

"We are now looking beyond the May elections," De Venecia said. "That is why we in the House want to prevent the eruption of a fiscal and debt crisis of a nature similar to the Argentinian crisis that shattered its people."

DE VENECIA

He cited the "Spartan approach" of the House to the budget, adding that "fiscal discipline tells us that we should live within our means."

De Venecia and Rep. Roland Andaya, chair of the House appropriations committee, said the President wanted the anti-poverty programs in place so urgently to pull the people out of poverty.

The Speaker said the President did not want the government to resort to devaluation and printing of more money.

Congress adjourned its session yesterday and will resume on May 24 for the national canvassing of votes for president, vice president and the senators.

PAYBACK IN MAY POLLS

Congressmen vow revenge on senators

By Carlito Pablo

THE CONGRESSMEN have their hackles up.

They will not be voting for any reelectionist senator, whether with the administration or the opposition, except for Sen. Robert Barbers, in the May 10 elections.

The representatives' reason: The senators sat on more than 1,000 local bills the congressmen needed passed in order to take "something" home to their constituents this election season.

"For the first time, we'll be going home without a single local bill for our respective constituents," griped House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales (Lakas, Mandaluyong).

Gonzales, speaking for the irate lawmakers, said the Senate under the leadership of its president Franklin Drilon has "shown so much insensitivity to our concerns."

"So it's going to be payback time during the elections," he added.

Barbers and four other senators are seeking reelection, namely, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Rodolfo Biazon, Robert Jaworski and John Osmeña.

"Except for Barbers, who fought for the passage of our local bills, all the rest didn't do anything," Gonzales said.

As for himself, Gonzales said, he will be supporting instead the senatorial bids of Reps. Didagen Dilangalen (Maguindanao) and Carlos Padilla (Nueva Vizcaya), former Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas and former Agriculture Secretary Salvador Escudero.

Killing bills

In a separate interview, Rep. Eduardo Antonio Nachura (LP, Western Samar) said most congressmen were fuming because the senators "killed" all the local bills forwarded to them by the House.

Asked if the congressmen would be junking some of the reelectionist senators, Nachura said: "That's what is being talked about here."

Gonzales also accused the Senate of double-crossing the House.

He recalled that House leaders had a series of meetings with Drilon and then Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda on a "trade."

The senators wanted the House to pass the absentee voting bill and the dual citizenship law, and we did that," Gonzales said. "In return, the senators pledged to facilitate the passage of our local bills."

Local bills are pet measures that directly benefit a congressman's constituents or district.

For example, a town clinic might be upgraded to a hospital through such a bill, or a public school to a college.

Gonzales said the congressmen even relaxed their request of the senators and asked them to pass just one local bill for each of the 220 congressmen.

The junking of senatorial bets will not be the only thing in vogue this campaign season, at least for some members of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats.

Junking Noli

Maverick Lakas Rep. Jacinto Paras yesterday said he and other administration congressmen will support opposition vice presidential candidate Sen. Loren Legarda instead of President Macapagal-Arroyo's running mate, Sen. Noli de Castro.

Paras also said a "sizable number" of Lakas legislators will junk Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who is running as a guest candidate in the administration senatorial slate, out of sympathy for "[Heherson] Sonny Alvarez."

Alvarez, former Lakas spokesperson, was bumped off the administration senatorial slate to make way for Santiago, who jumped from the opposition to the administration camp.

"For me personally, Loren is a dear friend and I don't know Noli from anyone," Paras said.

Legarda bolted the Lakas party late last year when it became clear that Ms Macapagal would be running in May and it was unlikely another woman would be chosen as her running mate.

Paras said he had informed the President of his decision to support Legarda.

"The President tried to persuade me to change my mind but this is a personal decision," Paras said.

Paras said that some Lakas leaders would have preferred Senator Barbers, a senior Lakas leader, as the administration's vice presidential candidate.

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Jollibee expands market to China

By Doris C. Dumlao

FAST-FOOD giant Jollibee Foods Corp. is now poised to serve the huge Chinese market following its acquisition of a controlling stake in a Shanghai-based company which operates the popular restaurant chain Yonghe King for $22.5 million.

The publicly-listed JFC group signed in Hong Kong on Friday a deal for the purchase of 85 percent of Belmont Enterprises Ventures Ltd., the holding company of the Yonghe Group of Companies.

"This acquisition is a very significant step in our international expansion. It provides us with an opportunity to become a major regional player in the quick-service restaurant business in Asia," said JFC chair and chief executive officer Tony Tan Caktiong.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, JFC said that it bought the shares of Belmont Enterprises through its subsidiary Jollibee International (BVI) Ltd. from The Baring Asia Private Equity Fund L.Ps 1, 2, 3 and 4 Group and Academy Assets Ltd.

Under the agreement, Jollibee International shall acquire 85 percent of the outstanding capital of Belmont for an initial price of $11.5 million. A bonus payment will be made by Jollibee to the sellers within the next three years if a certain profit after tax level is achieved. The maximum price was set at $22.5 million.

JFC plans to finance half of the initial price using its surplus cash and the balance by tapping external sources.

Tan Caktiong said that Yonghe Group's founders—Lin Yu Au and Lee Yu Lin who respectively serve as Belmont's CEO and head of marketing and public relations—would retain the remaining 15 percent equity in Belmont and likewise would continue working for the company.

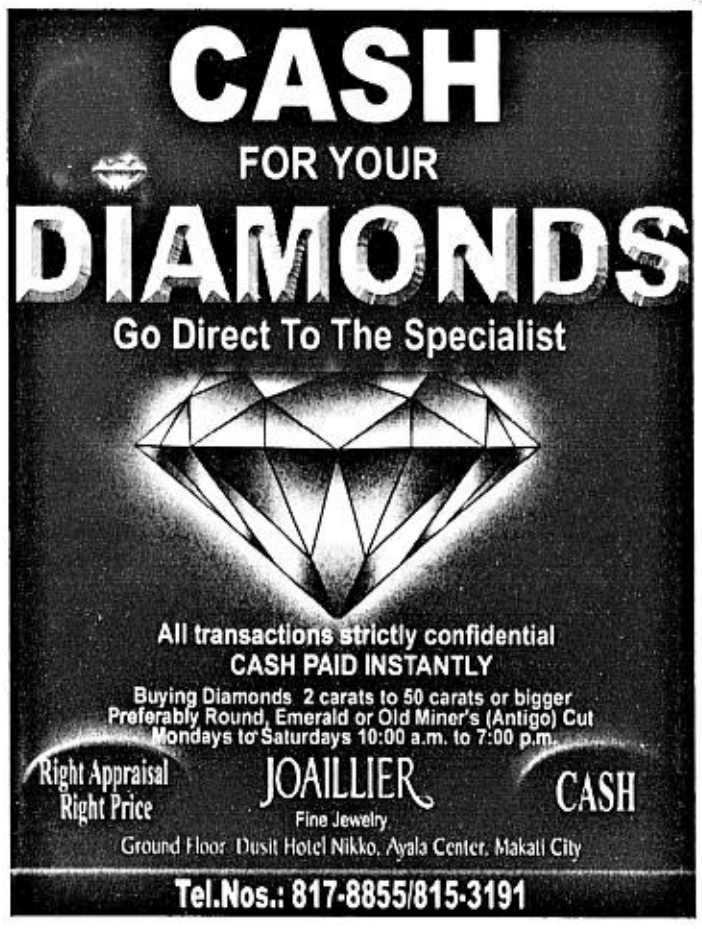
Lin Yu Au said JFC's takeover would benefit the business of the Yonghe chain.

"It has the expertise in the fast food business as demonstrated by its successes in the Philippines. From my dealings with Jollibee's management and my visits to Jollibee, Chowking, Greenwich and Delifrance stores and commissaries in Manila, I saw the contribution that the Jollibee Group can bring to significantly grow Yonghe King's business in China," he said.

As part of the takeover, JFC hired Filipino-Chinese accountant Abigail Siy as finance manager of Belmont and the Yonghe Group of Companies reporting to the CEO effective March 2004. Siy, who had previously worked for Joaquin Cunanan-Price Waterhouse Coopers in Manila, will be based in Shanghai.

JFC has been eyeing mainland China over the past few years but plans were derailed by the global economic slowdown as well as the outbreak of the killer Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

"We are optimistic about our entry into China and a big factor for that confidence is that the original leaders of Yonghe, together with its 2,900 employees, will continue to manage our new business there," Tan Caktiong said.



Dentists' meeting

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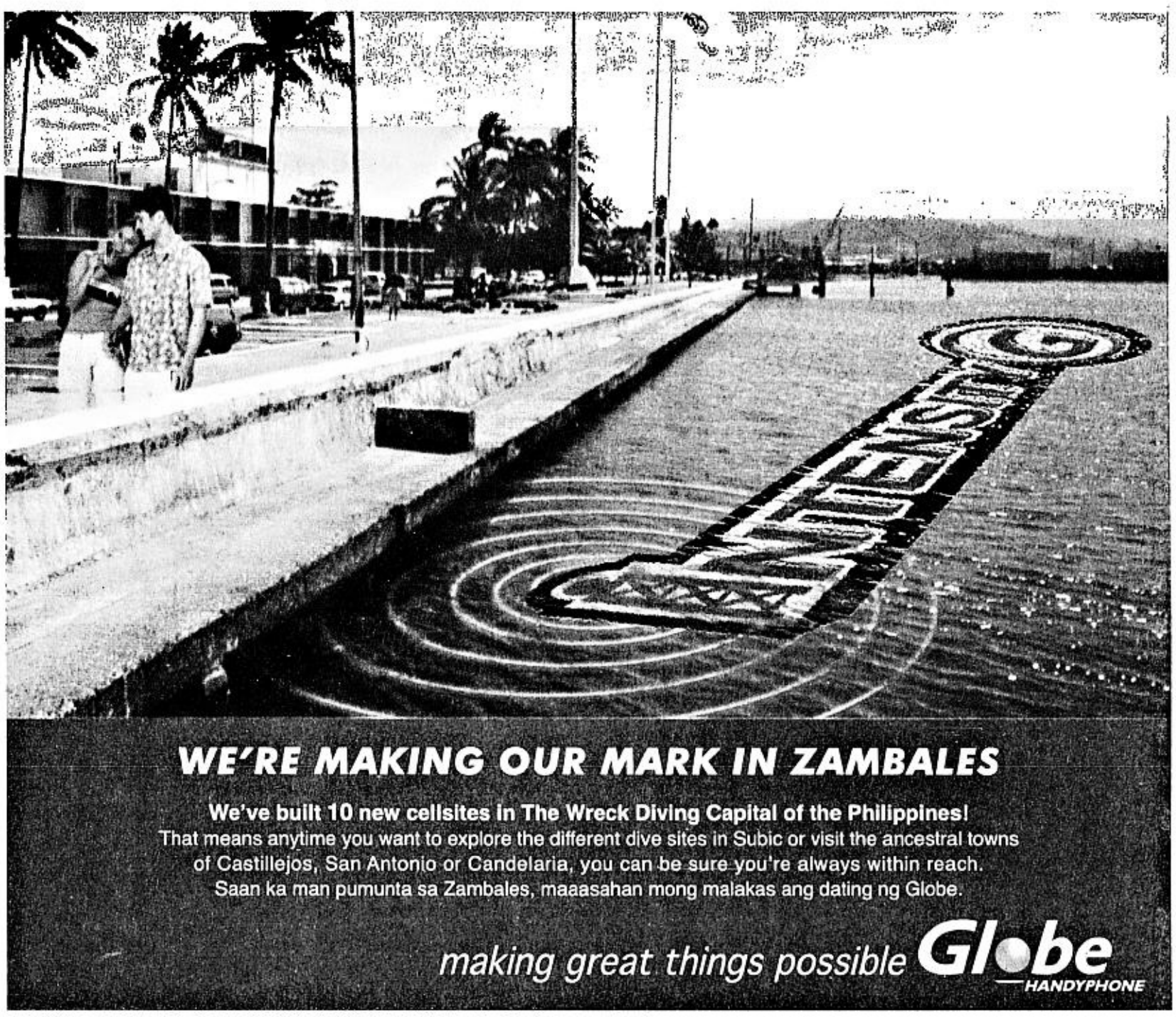
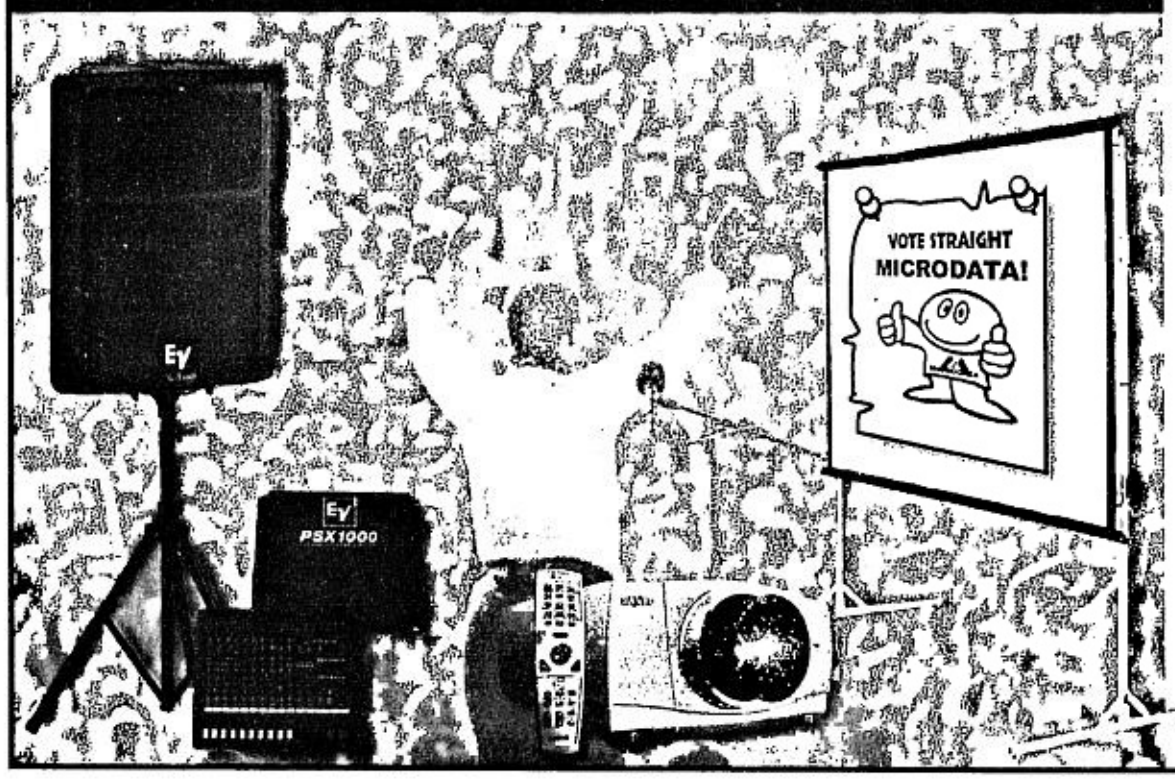
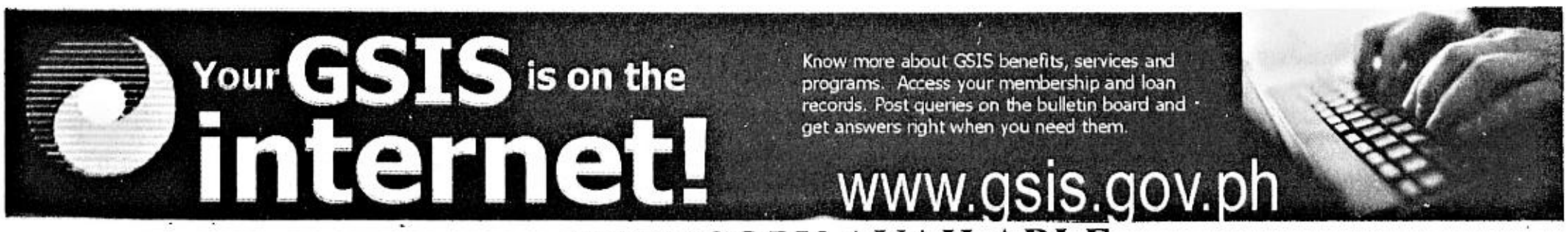
THE INTERNATIONAL College of Dentists, Philippine Section, will hold its third Quarterly Meeting on Thursday at the Unilab Executive Lounge in Mandaluyong City. Registration starts at 5 p.m.

ICD president Dr. Antonio A. Baldemor said the highlights of the affair are the election of new ICD fellows and officers, scientific seminar and a pre-Valentine Fellowship with a live band providing music and entertainment.

All fellows have been requested to come with a Valentine motif and contact Dr. Beth Carrasco at the ICD Secretariat, tel. nos. 631-94-23 and 633-74-66.







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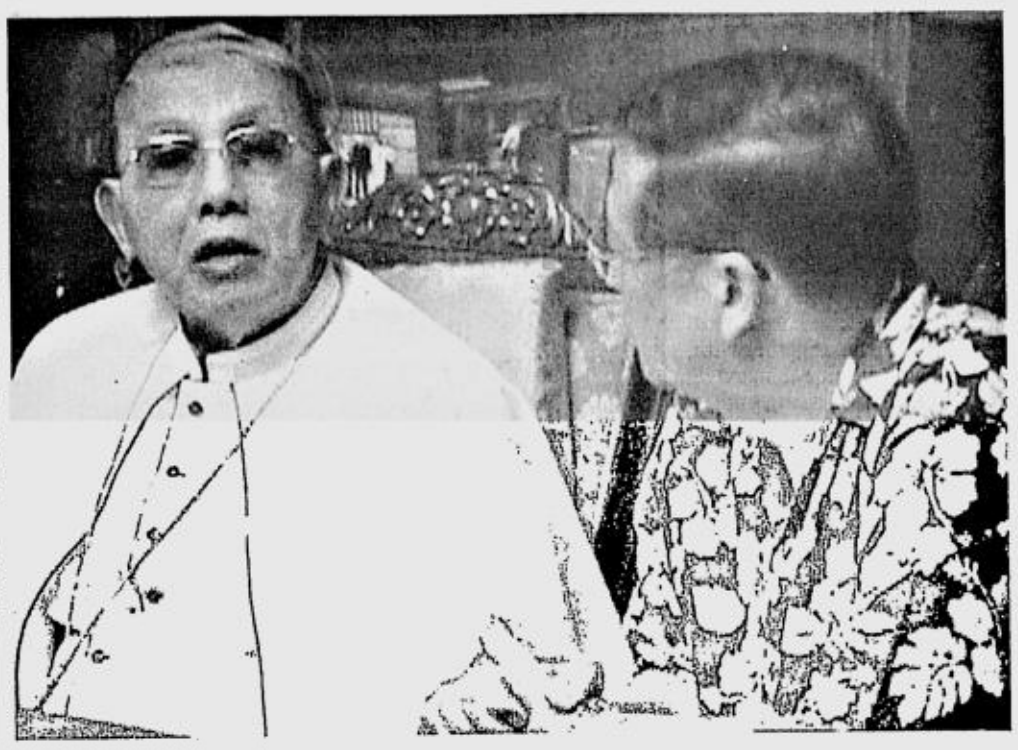

SIN AND ROCO: Cardinal's blessing.

Sin to Roco: Hope you win

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENTIAL candidate Raul Roco yesterday visited Jaime Cardinal Sin, the retired archbishop of Manila, and came away with an encouraging message.

This was how the standard-bearer of the Alyansa ng Pagasa quoted the influential cardinal as saying: "Pray that the Lord will work his will through you. I hope you win."

But Roco was quick to say that Sin's message to him was only a sort of "pastor's blessing."

"That doesn't mean he's endorsing my candidacy," the former senator said in a phone interview.

Roco arrived at Sin's residence, the Villa San Miguel in Mandaluyong City, at around 11:50 a.m.

He said they discussed the "general political situation" over *pancit* and cappuccino for some 30 minutes.

"I sought his counsel and advice," Roco said. "At 62, I can still use spiritual advice. It's good to have spiritual advice."

He defended his decision to pay a call on Sin instead of the current Manila archbishop, Gaudencio Rosales, saying: "I went there for [Sin's] wisdom and experience. In fact, he told me he's retired. But I told him, 'Your vision and wisdom are still with you.'"

"Everybody will need his counsel," Roco observed.

He said he was part of a group of "old friends" who could visit the cardinal any time. "You feel good after talking to an old friend," he said.

In 1998, when he first ran for president, Roco also called on Sin prior to the elections from which actor Joseph Estrada emerged winner.

Gabriela names party-list bets, vows to junk GMA

By TJ Burgonio
and Leila B. Salaverria

THE WOMEN'S group Gabriela yesterday proclaimed nine nominees for the party-list elections but vowed to junk the only woman in the presidential race.

A crowd of over 2,000, including several politicians and the wives of two "presidentiables" attended the proclamation during Gabriela's national convention held at the San Andres Sports Complex in Manila.

The alliance of women's organizations, which has 15 chapters across the country, is seeking three congressional seats. Its battle cry is "Babae, Bata, Bayan (Women, Children, Country)."

Former Bayan Muna party-list representative Liza Largoza-Maza, who is Gabriela's national president, leads the nominees. Second nominee is Luzviminda Ilagan, former Ateneo de Davao professor and human rights advocate under the Marcos regime; and third is social worker and Miriam College professor Malou Turalde-Jarabe.

The six others are: Maritess Legaspi-Pielago from Bicol, Evelyn Carias from Davao City, Nenita Ledesma-Cherneguin from the Visayas, Jaqueline K. Carino from the Cordilleras, Nanette Miranda-Tampico, and Athel Hijos.

Maza said Gabriela's card-carrying membership was expected to reach half a million by May, and that the group was "definitely not supporting" President Macapagal-Arroyo, who "has failed to respond to women's issues."

She called on all women to "campaign against (GMA's) continued hold on power."

But the alliance was not endorsing any presidential aspirant as of now, Maza told the INQUIRER, because "so far, none has presented a platform of government." She said the "cutting-edge" issues facing women nowadays were poverty, jobs, livelihood, housing and education.

The event invariably became a campaign stage for other politicians present, who were given time to address the crowd—after dancing to Gabriela's theme song.

Sonia Roco and actress Susan Roces represented their husbands, presidential aspirants Raul Roco and Fernando Poe Jr. "Brother" Eddie Villanueva also sent a representative. The other presidential candidates were not invited.

In her speech, Roces, the most applauded guest, said she was an admirer of the heroine Gabriela Silang, after whom the alliance was named, and that her husband shared the group's advocacies.

"I want to tell you (that) my husband will fight for women, children and country," she said, mouthing Gabriela's slogan.

Also present were vice-presidential candidate Hermie Aquino; and senatorial hopefuls Mar Roxas, Rodolfo Biazon, Nicanor Gatmaytan, Heherson Alvarez, Boots Anson-Roa, and Perfecto Yasay, Jr.

Biazon and Roxas were seen signing autographs before the program began. Addressing the crowd, Biazon detailed his six-point plan for the Senate, leading off with the passage of the women's reproductive health care bill.

Susan's dream role: Gabriela Silang

"I ONCE wished that the life Gabriela Silang were made into a movie, and that I would play the lead role," veteran actress Susan Roces said. She couldn't have better underscored her admiration for the heroine after whom her listeners' organization had been named.

Roces addressed the national convention of the women's party-list group Gabriela yesterday as representative of her husband, presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. Her arrival had caused a commotion. She was the last to speak among the guests, but she drew the loudest applause.

She never made the dream movie, the actress said, speaking mostly in Filipino. "But today, I can feel her struggle for freedom because of you."

Liza Largoza-Maza, Gabriela national president and the group's lead nominee in the party-list elections in May, believes Roces can do something better.

"Since she is powerful in the movie industry, I hope she would push for the making of films that feature heroines, and women who are not the subject of physical and sexual abuse," Maza said.

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CIRCULAR NO. 14-P

TO : **ALL SSS MEMBERS/EMPLOYERS**

SUBJECT : **REVISED GUIDELINES ON SALARY LOANS GRANTING**

The Social Security Commission, under Resolution No. 669 dated 10 December 2003, approved the following revised guidelines on salary loans granting:

1. Eligibility Requirements

1.1 An employed, currently paying self-employed or voluntary member (SE/VM) who has **6** posted monthly contributions for the last **12** months prior to the month of filing of application.

1.2 For a one-month loan, the member-borrower must have **36** posted monthly contributions prior to the month of filing of application.

1.3 For a two-month loan, the member-borrower must have **72** posted monthly contributions prior to the month of filing of application.

1.4 If the member-borrower is employed, his employer must be updated in contributions and loan remittances.

1.5 The member-borrower must be updated/current in the payment of his obligations in his other member loans, which include educational, stock investment, MADE & housing loans granted under the Unified Housing Loan Program (UHLP) or direct from SSS.

1.6 The member-borrower has not been granted final benefit (total permanent disability, retirement and death).

1.7 The member-borrower must not be more than sixty (60) years of age at the time of application.

1.8 The member-borrower has not been disqualified due to fraud committed against the SSS.

2. Loan Amount

2.1 A one-month salary loan is equivalent to the average of the member's latest 12 monthly salary credits posted.

2.2 A two-month salary loan is equivalent to twice the average of the member's latest 12 monthly salary credits posted (rounded to the next higher monthly salary credit), but not to exceed P24, 000.

3. Repayment Term

The one-month or two-month salary loan shall be payable within two (2) years in 24 equal monthly installments.

4. Interest and Penalty

4.1 The loan shall be charged a nominal interest of 10% per annum. First year's interest shall be deducted in advance from the proceeds of the loan. Second year's interest shall be included in the monthly amortizations.

4.2 Loan amortization not remitted on due date shall bear a penalty of 1% per month.

5. Service Fee

A service fee of **1%** of the loan amount shall be charged and deducted from the proceeds of the loan.

6. Loan Renewal

The loan may be renewed after the prescribed amortization period of two (2) years. Balance of P500 or less shall be deducted from the proceeds of the new loan.

7. Mode of Payment

Self-Employed/Voluntary Member-Borrowers (SE/VM)

7.1 For self-employed or voluntary paying member-borrowers, the first amortization shall be paid to the SSS or any of its authorized banks on or before the 10th day of the third month following the date of loan.

Employed Member-Borrowers

7.2 For employed member-borrowers (including participants of the fast track program), the first deduction from their salaries shall start on the second month following the date of loan. All remittances shall be made on or before the 10th day following the applicable month of deduction to the SSS or to any of its authorized banks.

7.3 The employee is obliged to report to the new employer his obligations with SSS and shall allow the new employer to deduct from his salary the corresponding amortizations due, plus any penalty for late remittance of amortizations.

Employer

7.4 The employer shall be responsible for the collection and remittance to the SSS of the amortization(s) due on the member-borrower's salary loan through payroll deduction.

7.5 The employer shall require new employees to secure from the SSS an updated statement of account.

7.6 The new employer shall continue the deduction and shall be accountable for remittance to the SSS.

7.7 In case the member-borrower is separated voluntarily, (e.g. retirement or resignation) or involuntarily, (e.g. termination of employment or cessation of operations of the company), the employer shall be required to deduct the total balance of the loan from any benefit(s) due to the employee and shall remit the same in full to SSS.

7.8 If the benefit(s) due the employee or the amount thereof legally available for offset of obligations of the employee is insufficient to fully repay the loan, the employer shall report the unpaid loan balance to SSS.

8. Deduction of Unpaid Loan from Benefits

In case of member-borrower's death, total disability or retirement under the Social Security Act, the entire amount or any unpaid amount of the loan as well as the interest and penalty thereon, if any, shall be deducted from the corresponding benefit.

This Circular supersedes previous guidelines on salary loans granting and takes effect on 01 March 2004.

CORAZON S. DE LA PAZ
President & CEO

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 8, 2004
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Is 6:1-8**

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted; the train of his robe filled the Temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: two to cover the face, two to cover the feet, and two to fly with.

They were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is Yahweh Sabaoth.

All the earth is filled with his Glory!"

At the sound of their voices the foundations of the threshold shook and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said, "Poor me! I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips living among a people of unclean lips, and yet I have seen the King, Yahweh Sabaoth."

Then one of the seraphs flew to me; in his hands was a live coal which he had taken with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth with it and said,

"See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" I answered, "Here I am. Send me!"

2nd Reading: **1 Cor 15:1-11**

Let me remind you, brothers and sisters, of the Good News that I preached to you and which you received and on which you stand firm. By that Gospel you are saved, provided that you hold to it as I preached it. Otherwise, you will have believed in vain.

In the first place, I have passed on to you what I myself received: that Christ died for our sins, as Scripture says; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve. Afterwards he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters together; most of them are still alive, although some have already gone to rest. Then he appeared to James and after that to all the apostles. And last of all, he appeared to the most despicable of them, this is to me. For I am the last of the apostles, and I do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. Nevertheless, by the grace of God, I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been without fruit. Far from it, I have toiled more than all of them, although not I, rather the grace of God in me.

Now, whether it was I or they, this we preach and this you have believed.

Gospel: **Lk 5:1-11**

One day, as Jesus stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, with a crowd gathered around him listening to the word of God, he caught sight of two boats left at the water's edge by the fishermen now washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to pull out a little from the shore. There he sat and continued to teach the crowd.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon replied, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will lower the nets." This they did and caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. They signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats almost to the point of sinking.

Upon seeing this, Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees, saying, "Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and his companions were amazed at the catch they had made and so were Simon's partners, James and John, Zebedee's sons.

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. You will catch people from now on." So they brought their boats to land and followed him, leaving everything.

Commentary

They had "worked hard all night and caught nothing." But next moment the boat was so full of fish that they were in danger of sinking. It's a spectacular contrast between emptiness and fullness.

As usual, these opposites are not enemies. There is some sense in which we have to be empty if we are to receive. What freedom would be ours if we could sit down sometimes with our emptiness (empty feelings especially) and see it not as something to be avoided at all costs, but as a purification and a clearing of space for something new to be born. In fact we will never come to anything new if we are afraid of emptiness; our whole lives will be only a rearrangement of what we already have. No one has expressed it so well as St. John of the Cross.

To reach satisfaction in all. To come to possess all.
Desire its possession in nothing. Desire the possession of nothing.
To come to the knowledge of all. To arrive at being all.
Desire the knowledge of nothing. Desire to be nothing.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Evident premeditation—The trial court correctly ruled that the qualifying circumstance of evident premeditation was not present in the killing. Essentially, there is evident premeditation when the execution of a criminal act is preceded by cool thought and reflection upon the resolution to carry out a criminal intent within a space of time sufficient to arrive at a calm judgment. Obviously, the acts of appellant in the present case can hardly be described as a product of reflective thought or deliberate planning towards a decisive resolve to kill the victim. On the contrary, the confrontation that escalated to a violent brawl was quite spontaneous, casual and incidental. Verily, the brutal killing was not the result of a previous plot or sinister design to end the life of the victim. The elements of evident premeditation are as follows: (a) the time when the accused decided to commit the crime; (b) an overt act manifestly indicating that the accused clung to the determination to commit the crime; and (c) the lapse of a period of time, between the determination and the subsequent execution of the crime, sufficient to allow the accused an opportunity to reflect upon the consequences of the act. As found by the trial court, the prosecution failed to present sufficient evidence to establish any of the foregoing requisites. To be sure, when there is no showing how and when the plan to kill was decided or how much time had elapsed before the crime was carried out, there is no evident premeditation. In a criminal prosecution—especially in cases involving the extreme penalty of death—nothing but proof beyond reasonable doubt of every fact necessary to constitute the crime with which the accused is charged must be established. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Panganiban, People vs Escarlos, G. R. No. 148912, September 10, 2003]

BY R. B. VERA

ROCO ON VOTE BUYING

Get the bribe, junk the buyer

By TJ Burgonio

ROCO

GET the bribe, junk the candidate.

Presidential candidate Raul Roco gave this odd piece of advice yesterday to the youth, should they come face to face with "vote-buying" in the upcoming national elections.

"If someone bribes you into voting for him, get the money but don't vote for the candidate," Roco, standard bearer of the Alyansa ng Pag-asa, told students of the San Beda College in Manila, his alma mater. "Curse the candidate, too," he said.

The former Education secretary, his running mate Hermie Aquino, and their party's senatorial candidates spoke in a forum organized by the Bedan Advocacy and Consciousness Enhancement Society.

In an ambush interview after the program, Roco explained to reporters that the cash candidates would use to buy votes should be "returned to the people." He said these candidates should be asked "where they stole it from (because) candidates ... are not supposed to have so much money."

His campaign fund was not as big as those of his rivals, Roco told his audience, because he never stole from the people. "If Malacañang has so much money at its disposal, it should explain where that came from," he said.

"They say the fight is reduced to Jose Velarde, who was replaced by Jose Pidal, who will be replaced by Jose Rizal. Velarde made a pile of money, but Pidal beat him. The pro-Rizal has only a peso. But (this) peso is (worth) much more than a billion," he added, eliciting cheers.

Roco's main program is the full implementation of the government's free education program for elementary and high school students.

At the start of his address, he sang the Bedan Hymn, whose lyrics he composed. The students joined in the singing and then broke into applause.

Roco said the youth should vote on the basis of candidates' qualifications and credentials, not popularity.

He urged the students to vote straight for his slate, because the people on it are "clean, truthful, and full of credentials. "Good intentions pave the road to hell," he said, (because good intentions) are not enough; one must be ready for the role he is applying for."

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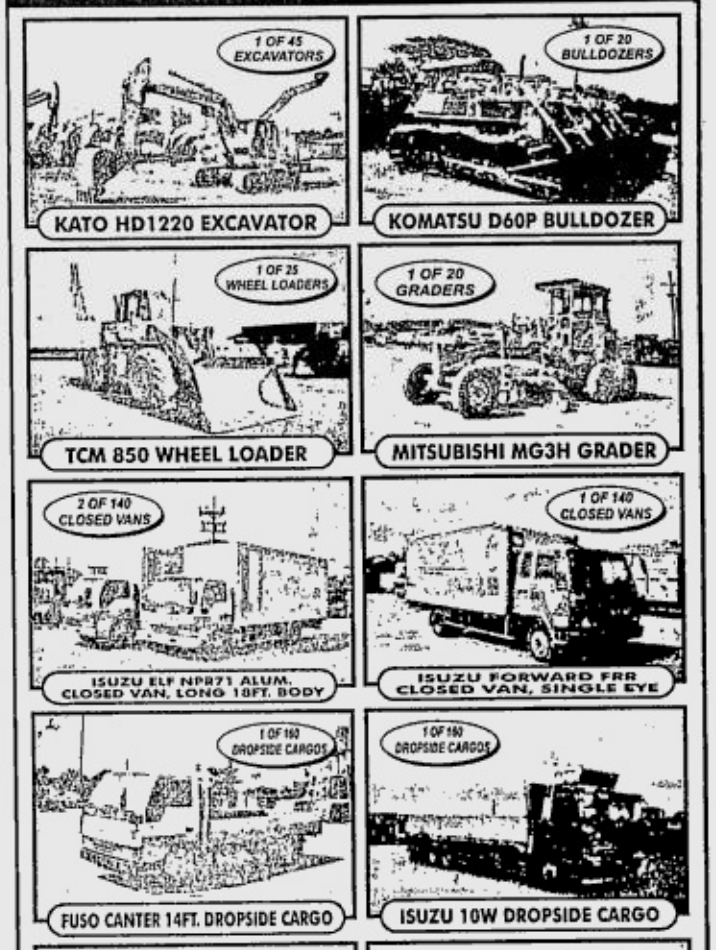

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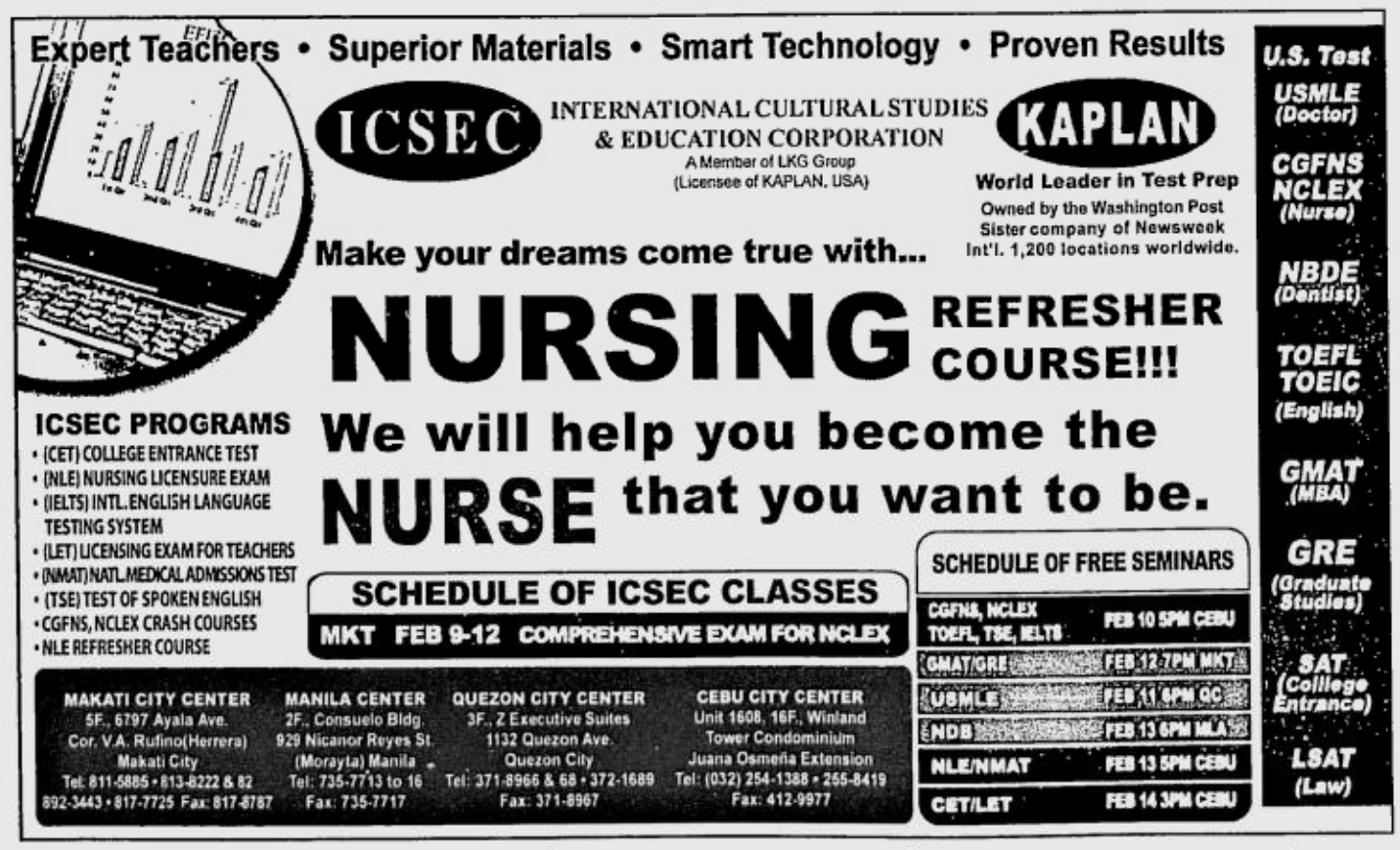


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2004

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

WHO: No proof of humans passing bird flu

HANOI—Two more people have died in Vietnam of bird flu, taking Asia's death toll to 18 on Friday, but two UN reports suggested the deadly virus remains mostly a pathogen of birds.

One report showed the H5N1 virus was not, as feared, spreading from person to person and another showed it was not infecting pigs. The two reports suggest the virus is not, at least yet, mutating into forms that would turn it into a global epidemic for humans.

The World Health Organization said genetic tests on bird flu virus taken from two Vietnamese sisters who died showed it had not yet acquired the mutations needed to pass from person to person.

This suggested the two women caught it directly from chickens. Thirteen people have died from bird flu in Vietnam so far.

A Food and Agriculture Organization official in Vietnam said this week three or four pigs had tested positive for the virus, but an FAO scientist in Rome later said the tests used were experimental.

WHO flu expert Dr. Robert Webster played down the report.

"Right now there is no justification for saying there is H5N1 virus infection in pigs in Vietnam," he said.

Pigs and birds are both sources of new influenza viruses that eventually infect humans, but the immune system of a pig is closer to that of a human than is that of a bird. Scientists say pigs are ideal vessels for mixing genes from the bird flu pathogen and the human influenza virus.

The world animal health body OIE recommended that countries with avian flu closely monitor pigs which were in contact with infected birds and cull those in which the presence of the virus was confirmed.

Experts say the possibility of a new strain sweeping through a human population with no immunity to it is remote, but that each outbreak narrows the odds a little.

That is one reason why the FAO and WHO have been urging affected countries to act swiftly to stamp out the H5N1 virus, preferably by slaughtering poultry within 3 km of an outbreak.

Transmission to hogs is a constant worry, especially in countries like Vietnam and China where poultry, pigs and people often live in close proximity.

South Korea said it was even considering evacuating people from bird flu zones to try to contain the virus.

China, home to the world's biggest poultry population and where the virus may have spread to 13 of 31 provinces, says it faces a tough fight to defeat the disease. *Reuters*

Bird flu detected in US

WASHINGTON—Bird flu has been detected in chickens in a non-commercial flock in the US state of Delaware, but it is not the same deadly strain that is affecting humans in Asia, local newspapers reported late on Thursday.

More than 12,000 chickens were quarantined and due to be destroyed after the bird flu strain —known as H7—was found at a farm in Delaware's southern Kent County, the Delaware State News reported on its Web site.

Delaware Secretary of Agriculture Michael Scuse told the newspaper that the strain was not the same that has killed 18 people in Thailand and Vietnam and posed no threat to human health.

South Korea, which is battling a deadly outbreak of the virus, reacted swiftly to reports of the discovery in Delaware, immediately halting imports of US poultry.

The suspension covers quarantine inspection of US poultry and related products, South Korea's agriculture ministry said on Saturday.

In addition to the destruction of the 12,000 chickens in Delaware, all farms within two miles of the infected birds will be tested within the next week, Scuse said. *Reuters*

Putin links subway blast to Chechens

MOSCOW—Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed to have no dealings with Chechen separatists he blamed for a bloody bomb attack on the Moscow metro, and linked the blast with elections next month he is virtually certain to win.

The Friday morning rush-hour bombing killed at least 39 passengers, and police said 113 people were still in hospital, among them a 9-year-old boy.

Officials gave different explanations for the blast, which shattered the second carriage of a packed train as it was speeding between two central Moscow stations.

Some suggested the blast was caused by a package left on board. Deputy Moscow prosecutor Vladimir Yudin said the most likely scenario was a suicide bombing—like a series of other attacks which have struck the capital in recent months.

Putin, addressing reporters alongside the president of ex-Soviet Azerbaijan, said there was no doubt fugitive Chechen separatist leader Aslan Maskhadov had masterminded the attack.

"We do not need any indirect confirmation. We know for certain that Maskhadov and his bandits are linked to this terrorism," he said.

"I do not rule out that this could be used both in debates taking place in the Russian presidential election and as a lever to put pressure on the current head of state."

A spokesperson for the fugitive Chechen leader said neither Maskhadov nor his separatist government were "connected to this bloody provocation and (they) unequivocally condemn it." *Reuters*

THE TWIN towers of the World Trade Center burn behind the Empire State Building in New York, Sept. 11, 2001 in this file photo. AP

2nd big quake hits eastern Indonesia

NABIRE, Indonesia—An earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale struck eastern Indonesia on Saturday, a day after one of similar magnitude killed 27 people and injured scores more in the same area, the US Geological Survey said.

The quake's epicenter was near the town of Nabire, in remote Papua province, according to survey spokesperson Butch Kinerney. It was of greater magnitude than the 6.9 earthquake that struck the area early on Friday, causing widespread damage.

"This leads us to believe there could be significant damage and casualties from this earthquake as well," he said.

Indonesia's meteorological bureau said the latest earthquake, which struck around 0242 GMT (10:42 a.m. in Manila), had a magnitude of 6.2 on Richter scale, an official at the bureau said.

Sarmin, an officer at Nabire police station, confirmed the latest earthquake.

"Yes, there was an aftershock around 1200 local time, but it was not that big. Windows were shaking," he said by telephone.

Residents camped outside their damaged homes on Saturday fearing more aftershocks.

"I could not sleep last night. We all refused to go inside our houses until this morning. The situation is still tense," Marquisa, a mother of four, said as she stood outside her home in Nabire, a regional center of 26,000 people.

"We brought everything that we could but we do not know for how long we have to stay like this," another resident said. *Reuters*

1 attack or 2? Jury faces $3.5-B WTC question

NEW YORK—More than two years after terrorists brought down the World Trade Center, a federal jury will begin deciding a $3.5-billion question: Is the leaseholder entitled to collect insurance for one attack or for two?

Opening statements begin Monday in a trial pitting trade center developer Larry Silverstein against 13 of his insurers.

The outcome will determine whether Silverstein gets $3.5 billion or $7 billion to rebuild at ground zero.

Silverstein contends that the destruction of the World Trade Center constituted two attacks, because the twin towers were hit by hijacked airliners a little over 15 minutes apart.

He and downtown development officials have been counting on the larger figure to build the 532.8-meter Freedom Tower, other skyscrapers and cultural buildings on the site within the next decade.

The smaller amount could mean years of construction delays at the site, according to the agency in charge of downtown redevelopment.

"Anyone who's in New York knows that how much we recover from this lawsuit will have an impact on the rebuilding of this site," Kevin M. Rampe, president of the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. The rebuilding costs have been estimated at between $7.45 billion and $7.86 billion, he said.

The proceedings could last months. A mediator's intervention, settlement talks and efforts by Gov. George Pataki and others failed to keep the case from going to trial.

For the insurance industry, the high dollar amounts make the case "precedent-setting and very notorious," said Don Griffin, assistant vice president of the industry group Property and Casualty Insurers Association of America. *AP*

TWO FOR THE ROAD

French couple Alexandre and Sonia Poussin, descend after climbing Cheops, the largest of the great Pyramids of Giza, Feb. 6. The couple has walked over 13,000 km from Cape Town, South Africa, to Alexandria, Egypt. In the journey, which had no sponsors or back-up teams, they did not stay in hotels, but stayed with ordinary people or in their tent aiming to see Africa not like tourists but like Africans, they said. Sonia discovered after she reached Egypt that she was pregnant. AP

Anti-Aristide gunmen seize Haitian city

GONAIVES, Haiti—An armed group opposed to Haiti's embattled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide took over the poor Caribbean nation's fourth-largest city on Friday, burning down the mayor's home and releasing scores of prisoners.

The gunmen, who used to belong to a pro-Aristide gang, attacked the police station in Gonaives on Thursday and said they intended to move on from the northern city and "liberate" others, including Cap-Haitien, Haiti's second-largest city.

The Red Cross said seven people were killed in the shootout during Thursday's attack on the police post, one of the bloodiest confrontations in escalating tensions between the government of the poorest country in the Americas and opponents who want Aristide to step down.

On Friday, shops were shuttered in the city where Haiti declared independence from France and freedom from slavery in 1804.

A charred body lay near the police station. The head had been slashed with a machete. Another smoldering corpse lay nearby, according to a Reuters Television crew.

Twenty-two people had been shot, said Red Cross worker Raul Elisse. Three of Thursday's dead were police officers.

Looters had stripped the burned remains of the police post and a fire station, and set fire to gasoline stations.

The rebels, numbering around 300, were joined by hundreds of civilians as they raced around the dilapidated city in trucks on Friday, occasionally firing into the air. *Reuters*

Kerry hopes to widen lead

DETROIT—Sen. John Kerry hopes to build on his commanding lead in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination on Saturday when voters in Michigan and Washington state hold caucuses.

With wins in seven of the first nine contests, Kerry is riding a wave that threatens to swamp all five of his remaining rivals vying for the right to challenge President George W. Bush in November.

A total of 204 delegates to July's nominating convention are at stake in the two states on Saturday. Kerry is favored in both, and he has moved out to a huge lead in public opinion polls in Michigan, the biggest state to vote so far.

"Victory is in the air," Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, a Kerry supporter, said at a rally in the Detroit suburb of Warren.

Michigan and Washington are the first of five states to vote in the presidential race over the next four days. Maine will hold caucuses on Sunday, and Tennessee and Virginia will hold primaries on Tuesday.

Michigan, a strongly Democratic state with a broad urban and rural mix and large populations of blacks and union members, had been pegged a key battleground in the nomination fight but Kerry's surge forced his rivals to recalculate their strategies.

Retired Gen. Wesley Clark and North Carolina Sen. John Edwards both skipped visits to Michigan or Washington this week to focus on Tuesday's contests in Virginia and Tennessee, where they are locked in a tough battle that could decide which one moves on to tackle Kerry.

Former front-runner Howard Dean, who in a month has squandered big leads in the polls and a record bank account, made some appearances in Michigan and Washington but then pulled out to concentrate on making a potential last stand in the Feb. 17 primary in Wisconsin.

KERRY, D-Mass., is seen in this 1960s photo as he receives a military decoration for his service in the US Navy during the Vietnam War. AP

Kerry, a four-term Massachusetts senator and decorated Vietnam veteran, campaigned in both states as part of his strategy to compete everywhere.

His wins last Tuesday in Arizona, North Dakota, Delaware, Missouri and New Mexico ended any questions that his appeal was limited to the primarily liberal and white electorates that gave him his first two wins in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Kerry, whose candidacy was given up for dead a month ago, has seen his fortunes rise in the last month as voters have re-examined which of the candidates would be best suited to challenge Bush. *Reuters*

MISS Peru America Ivette Santa Maria AP

'Miss Peru' recounts sex ordeal in Gabon

LIMA—A Peruvian beauty queen who traveled to Gabon to organize a "Miss Humanity" contest said on Friday she had been the victim of a "white slavery" plot involving the West African country's President Omar Bongo.

Libreville has strenuously denied any allegations of impropriety involving Bongo after versions of Ivette Santa Maria's story were reported in Peruvian papers this week.

Santa Maria said on Friday she had met Bongo at the presidential palace in Libreville on Jan. 19, her first day in Gabon, so the president could approve details of the worldwide contest which she was told would take place in July.

After the woman she believed was the contest's organizer left her alone with the president in a small reception room, Santa Maria said he called her over to a door, pressed a button, and, to her horror, a bed suddenly appeared.

"He got a bed out! I don't know what you'd think. He got a bed out—I ran away!" Santa Maria, 22, said in a telephone interview. "I was extremely shocked."

She said Bongo was "very angry, very serious, very annoyed" and was yelling "God knows what at me" in French as she fled into a lift down into the basement to get away.

In a statement earlier on Friday, the government of Gabon denied Santa Maria's story as reported in the media.

"These allegations, which are without basis, could not only undermine the respectability and integrity of Gabon's head of state... but also risk tarnishing the excellent relationship of cooperation and friendship which Gabon prides itself on having with Latin American and Caribbean countries, and particularly Peru," the statement said.

Santa Maria—"Miss Peru America 2004"—said she had been wearing a tight, strappy knee-length black dress lent to her by the Argentine woman organizer, Fabiana Segovia, who considered her proposed outfit of a pantsuit "too sexy."

"I think I was tricked and it's clear that this was a 'white slavery' pact, that's crystal clear," she said.

There was no reaction from Segovia.

Officials in Libreville said Santa Maria's name did not appear on any security registers at the presidential palace and her descriptions bore no resemblance to the building. They said an investigation had been opened to find out who was behind what they called an attempt to tarnish Bongo's reputation.

Bongo, who is three times Santa Maria's age, has led Gabon since 1967.

Santa Maria's story was splashed in Peruvian tabloids this week.

But she said parts of the initial tale—based on what she told her father in tears over a crackly phone line—were exaggerated, and she toned them down in later remarks. She arrived back in Peru on Thursday and only gave her full story on Friday.

Peru's foreign ministry has called for an official clarification from Gabon.

Foreign Minister Manuel Rodriguez on Thursday warned "all people who receive job offers in activities like beauty contests to conduct strict checks on the people who contact them, since illicit trafficking in people is, together with drugs trafficking, a major international criminal activity." *Reuters*

Bush names team to probe use of pre-war intelligence on Iraq

BAGHDAD—US President George W. Bush named a commission Friday to investigate the use of pre-war intelligence on Iraq as senior officials maintained a robust defense of the administration's handling of the dossier.

On the ground, confusion clouded a reported attempt on the life of the spiritual leader of Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority as the United Nations prepared to send its first full-fledged mission since it withdrew its overseas staff more than three months ago.

While the UN prepared to return to Baghdad, the United States urged Nato to increase its role in Iraq to take some pressure off US troops.

Bush included several political rivals in his nominations to the independent commission which will investigate why pre-war assessments of the status of Iraq's banned arsenal failed to be borne out in reality.

He tapped Democratic former Sen. Chuck Robb and retired judge Laurence Silberman to jointly chair the commission and appointed Sen. John McCain, who challenged him for the Republican nomination in 2000, as one of its seven other members.

McCain swiftly promised an exhaustive investigation looking at the political handling of the intelligence assessments as well as the information gathering of the intelligence services.

"I think all aspects are important, from the way the intelligence is gathered to the way it is presented to the American people," he said.

"It's obvious to one and all that there have been intelligence failures," he told reporters in Munich. "Why those occurred and under what circumstances nobody knows. That's why we need a thorough and complete investigation."

US Secretary of State Colin Powell meanwhile put up a robust defense of the administration's pre-war claims about Iraq's capabilities.

"It represented the best judgment we could make at that time on Saddam Hussein's activities," Powell told reporters at UN headquarters a year after he set out to the world body Washington's assessment of Iraq's banned arsenal.

The top US diplomat shrugged off suggestions the United States should apologize over its claims about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, which have not been found in Iraq nearly a year after the war was launched.

"I don't think any apology is necessary," he said. "It represented a solid body of advice, a solid body of information that had been collected by analysts and other sources."

In Baghdad, the UN team was expected to arrive over the weekend to begin assessing the feasibility of organizing elections to Iraq's first post-occupation government, which is due to take power by June 30.

The Shiite Muslim religious hierarchy, headed by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani has led a campaign against the US-led coalition's insistence on handing over to an unelected provisional government selected by regional caucuses.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan ordered the mission after Sistani made clear it would accept a compromise only if it was endorsed by the world body.

Ahead of the team's arrival, the Washington Post reported that the coalition was prepared to consider a radical overhaul of its transition timetable if the UN team recommended one, and was even prepared to delay the handover until January next year.

Citing US officials, the paper said members of the Bush administration had been crafting dramatic "new ideas" in a bid to bring a smooth end to the occupation.

"The Bush administration still publicly clings to its transition plan, but a UN team scheduled to arrive in Iraq... has been given a free hand to present its own blueprint for the country's political transition if it determines elections cannot be held by June in Iraq," the Post said.

"One option is extending the June 30 deadline for installing an Iraqi government to allow enough time for the direct elections" demanded by Sistani. "There is already talk about a hypothetical extension to Jan. 1, 2005."

The change is being mulled due to an "erosion" of support for the proposal to use caucuses to select it, the paper added. *AFP*

Saddam on Discovery Channel

DISCOVERY Channel will take viewers into the life and rule of Saddam Hussein in a two-hour special featuring two documentaries, Behind the Headlines: The Real Saddam and Capturing Saddam from 9 a.m. Monday, Feb. 9.

19 dead as tide traps Chinese shellfish diggers

MORECAMBE, England—Nineteen people thought to be Chinese illegal workers died when they were caught by racing tides while digging for shellfish on treacherous mud flats off the northwest coast of England, police said Friday.

It was believed the victims drowned in freezing seas after becoming stranded as they searched for cockles in Morecambe Bay, notorious for its swift-rising tides.

Locals said that the shoreline is treacherous for anyone unfamiliar with the area.

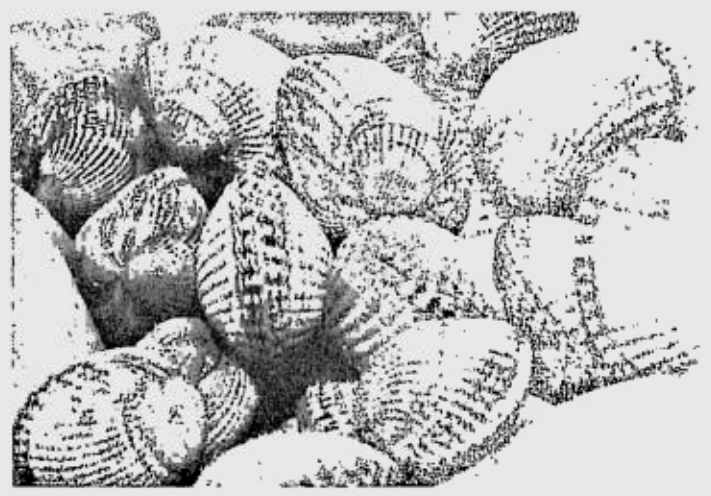
"It was waiting to happen. People just weren't expecting it on this scale," said Alan Sledmore, 55, a guide who takes visitors across the rich cockle beds of the bay.

"The tides here come in faster than a man can run," Sledmore said. "It's a beautiful area but it's dangerous if you don't know what you are doing."

The Home Office said the victims, mostly in their teens and 20s, had been brought to Britain illegally by a "ruthless" people-trafficking network to work on the dangerous shores.

According to newspaper reports, they were being paid around eight pounds ($14.5) for nine hours of labor.

Local police were investigating whether so-called "snakehead" people-smuggling gangs were responsible for bringing the cockle-gatherers to Britain and forcing them to work illegally, the BBC reported. *AFP*



A MAN holds a handful of shellfish, known locally as cockles at the scene of a mass drowning at Morecambe Bay in northwest England, Feb. 6. REUTERS

WORLDBRIEFS

US probes military sex assaults

WASHINGTON—US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has ordered a probe into Pentagon measures to prevent sex attacks within the ranks following a spate of reports of male troops abusing their female comrades in Iraq and Kuwait, officials said on Friday. "Sexual assault will not be tolerated in the Department of Defense," Rumsfeld said in a memo, released by the Pentagon, asking for a report and recommendations within 90 days. *Reuters*

Team separates baby from double head

SANTO DOMINGO—An 18-member surgical team successfully freed a 2-month-old baby from the partially developed head of a conjoined twin, doctors said late Friday. The 10-hour surgery "passed totally well and without complication," said Santiago Hazim, medical director at the International Center for Orthopedics and Specialized Treatment. Rebeca Martinez was born with a second head on top of her cranium on Dec. 10 in Santo Domingo. Doctors said she apparently had a Siamese twin who did not develop. *AFP*

Device to correct farsightedness

GAITHERSBURG, Md.—Privately held Refractec Inc. on Friday won a US advisory panel's backing for use of a surgical device to treat the gradual decline in close-up vision that comes with middle age. The panel voted unanimously to urge the Food and Drug Administration to approve Refractec's Viewpoint CK System, which employs radio waves to reshape the eye, for temporarily improving that type of vision loss. Refractec's procedure, known as conductive keratoplasty or CK, can improve near vision but does not completely rid patients of the need for glasses. *Reuters*

Indian man kills 5 daughters

AHMADABAD, India—An impoverished rickshaw driver killed his five young daughters by throwing them off a bridge into a river in western India's Gujarat, state police said Saturday. Salim Ghulam Shaikh took his daughters, ages 3 to 9, to the middle of the bridge Thursday and hurled them into the fast-moving Narmada River below, said local police superintendent Amar Sinh Vasava. A woman living nearby saw the incident and told police, said investigating officer V.J. Patel. Police were hunting for the suspect. *AP*

Pakistan: Nuke mess 'internal matter'

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan Saturday sought to quell international criticism for pardoning the man at the center of a nuclear information trading scandal by insisting the ongoing investigation was an "internal matter."

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf this week pardoned Abdul Qadeer Khan, revered as national hero, after he admitted leaking secrets and begged for forgiveness following a lengthy investigation into the alleged transfer of nuclear technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea.

"The investigations in Pakistan are an internal matter and cannot be raised in any other forum," foreign ministry spokesperson Masood Khan said in an interview with state-run Pakistan Television on Saturday.

The decision to charge and then pardon Khan provoked a storm of international criticism, raising concerns that Pakistan has sent a negative message to other would-be proliferators.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said Friday he would ask Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf about the pardon.

But Powell stressed that the clemency for Khan was a domestic question for Musharraf, who has emerged as a key US ally since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the US. *AFP*

The GSIS Scholarship Program

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) is now accepting applications from qualified incoming college students for the GSIS College Scholarship Program for SY 2004-2005.

To qualify under the program, applicants must be legitimate children of active GSIS members and must have a general academic average of 85% or its equivalent.

The following documents, together with the accomplished GSIS Scholarship Program forms, should be submitted to the GSIS Main Office or to the nearest GSIS Branch or District Offices:

- 2 pcs. of passport size picture with signature at the back
- Certified copy of Birth Certificate
- Certified copy of 4th yr. (3rd Grading) High School Report Card
- Certified copy of their Parent's GSIS policy contract and
- Parent's Certificate of Employment

Qualifiers shall take the GSIS Competitive Examination to be administered by the Center for Educational Measurement.

Scholars can choose from among any of the following 4 or 5-yr. GSIS Priority Courses: Accountancy, Actuarial Science, Business Administration, Computer Science and related IT courses, Economics, Engineering major in Computer, Civil, Electrical & Electronics, Electronics & Communications, Industrial, Management and Mechanical only, Finance, Management, Marketing, Mass Communications, Mathematics and Statistics.

GSIS President and General Manager Winston Garcia

For more details, please visit the GSIS Main Office or your nearest GSIS Branch/ District Office or contact Emma, Nelda, Meljune and/or Marisa of the GSIS-HRDD Scholarship Staff at Tel. Nos. 551-1878 or 891-6161 locals 4862/4863.

Application deadline: 2 April 2004.

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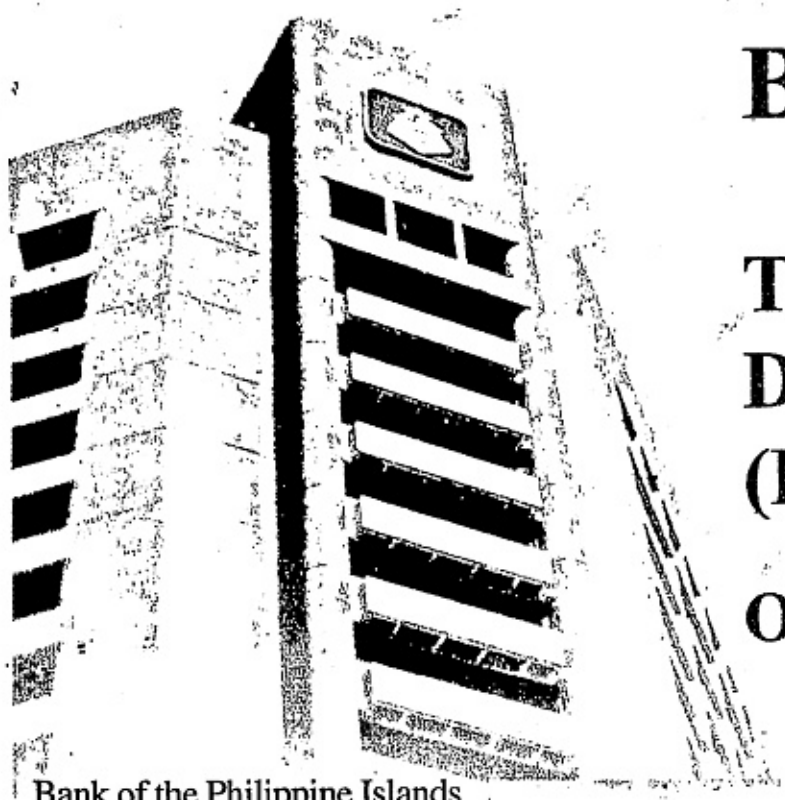

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISL

THE FIRST PHILIPPINE BANK TO RECE
DOUBLE CERTIFICATION FOR QUALIT
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Once again, BPI raises the bar of excellence in bank

Bank of the Philippine Islands achieves another milestone not only for itself, but also for the country for being the first Philippine bank to receive the double certification for Quality Management System (ISO 9001:2000) and Information Security (BS 7799).

This double certification was given by TUV Product Service, the international certifying body for the global quality standards formulated by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

Showing off the certificates are SVP Cesareo A. de Leon III, head of the Steering Committee and VP Randy G. Maranan, Total Quality Head.

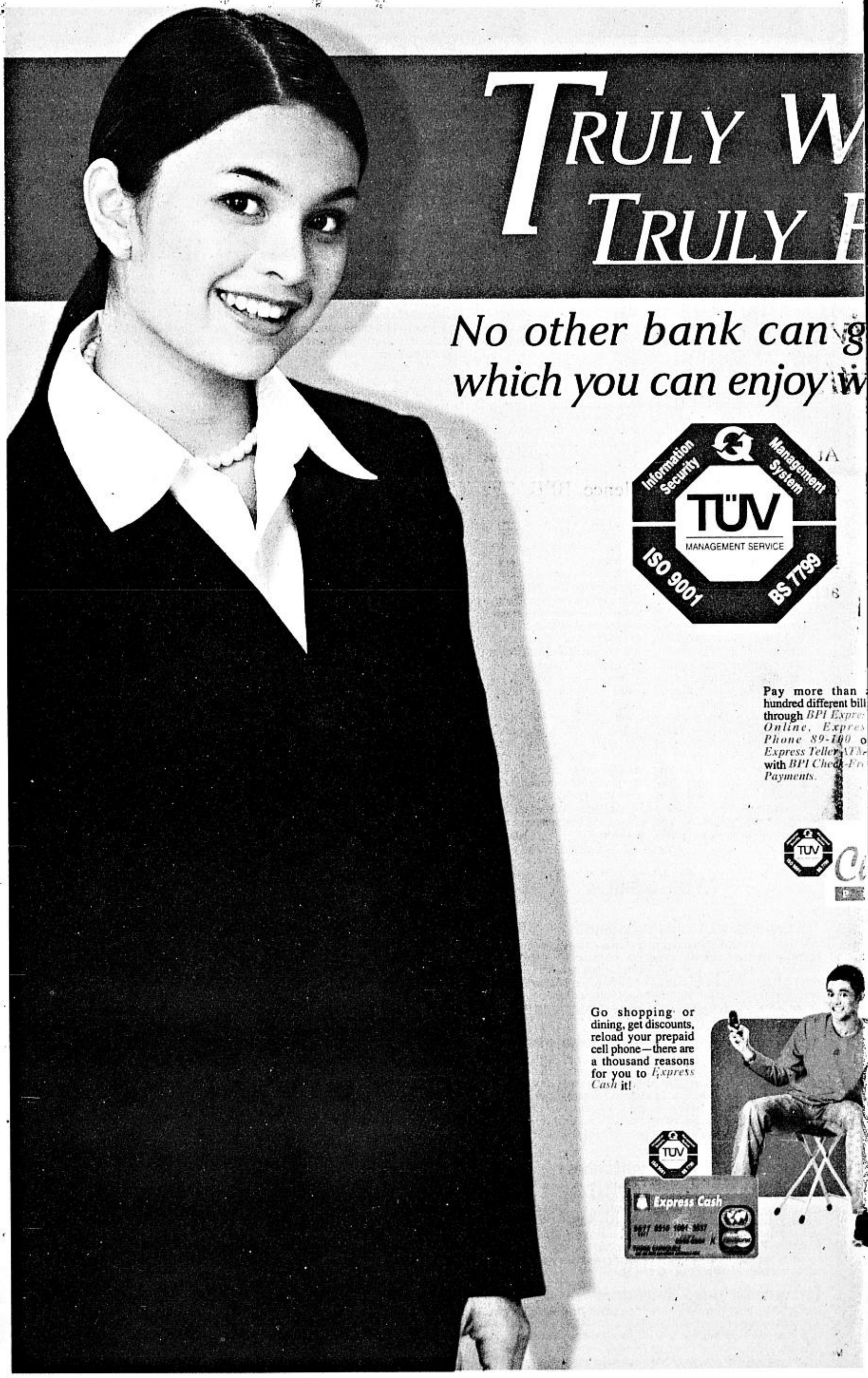
ISO 9001 is a set of standardized requirements for Quality Management System (QMS) that encompasses:

- Management responsibility
- Resource management
- Product design
- Development and realization
- Measurement, analysis and continuous improvement

This is a globally recognized quality system standard formulated by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), a worldwide federation of national standard bodies founded in 1947 with the goal of promoting the development of standard and related activities in the world with a view to facilitating international exchange of goods and services.

ISO 9001 sets out the requirements for an organization whose business processes range all the way from design to development, to production, installation and servicing.

BPI President Xavier P. Loinaz and BPI Vice Chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala hand out a trophy to VP Marge Marcial, one of the participating department heads.



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CURITY (BS 7799).

ing products and services.

The first-ever double certification for Quality Management System (ISO 9001:2000) and Information Security (BS 7799) awarded to a Philippine bank. Photo shows award-giving ceremonies, (from left) Richard Quin of TUV Product Service; Dr. Michael Schlect, Product Manager (BS 7799 and ISO 14001) of TUV Management Service; Ramoncito Puyat of TUV Product Service; Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, BPI Vice Chairman; Xavier P. Loinaz, BPI President; Aurelio R. Montinola III, BPI Senior Executive Vice President; and Varian Ojeda of TUV Product Service.

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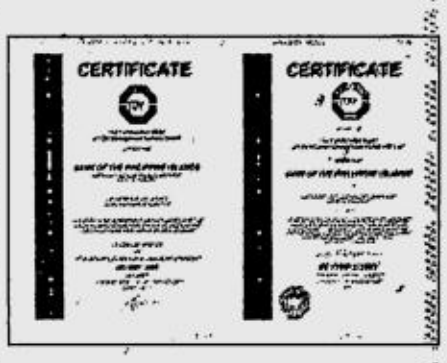
The TUV group hands over the certificates to BPI senior management.

This is the requirement standard used to assess a company's ability to meet customer and applicable regulatory requirements thereby addressing customer satisfaction.

The benefits of this certification include optimized usage of resources that include the company's staff, equipment and production materials. It helps improve transparency of operation, increases profitability/ margins, customer satisfaction while also laying down the framework for Total Quality Management.



In addition, BS 7799 (Information Security) covers the availability, integrity and confidentiality of information.

Information security signifies the availability, integrity and confidentiality of information of its customers.

With this certification, BPI customers can expect consistent delivery of quality products and services. More importantly, customers are assured that their banking transactions through the electronic channels are safe and secure, and they can do banking services with convenience and complete confidence.

BPI officers beam with pride as they show their trophies.

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ISSN 0116-2642 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 19 No. 62

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
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Out

THE LATEST Social Weather Stations survey bears bad news for Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos. Only a quarter of registered voters say they have "much trust" in him. A bigger plurality, "a dominant 32 percent" (in the language of the SWS news release), say they have "little trust" in him. And only three months before the general elections, an uncomfortably large 30 percent said they were undecided about whether they trusted him or not.

EDITORIALS

At a time when both the credibility of the Comelec and its sheer competence to conduct fair elections have been called into question because of a flawed automated elections contract, the results of the survey taken the third week of January sound an unmistakable alarm.

A clear majority of survey respondents said the controversial contract, which was voided by the Supreme Court in a stinging decision last month, was either definitely or probably corrupt. But a similar majority of 61 percent said they trusted the Comelec as an institution. (A "statistically equal" 59 percent said the same thing of the National Movement for Free Elections, the election watchdog.)

What could this mean? In unarticulated terms, the electorate could be putting the blame for the corrupt contract on Abalos' shoulders. To preserve the public's trust in the institution, maybe it is really time for Abalos to go.

In

BUT why is the President taking her sweet time in naming replacements for the two election commissioners who retired last week?

President Macapagal-Arroyo said she would not be rushed into making a hasty decision. "Well, of course they [the vacancies] should be filled with more deliberation than less," she said on Thursday.

The President sounds as if the time for choosing replacements started only when the positions became vacant. But surely she is mistaken. The term of office of members of the Comelec is fixed; the retirement of Ralph Lantion and the controversial Luzviminda Tancangco was determined the day they were appointed to the Comelec (by President Joseph Estrada).

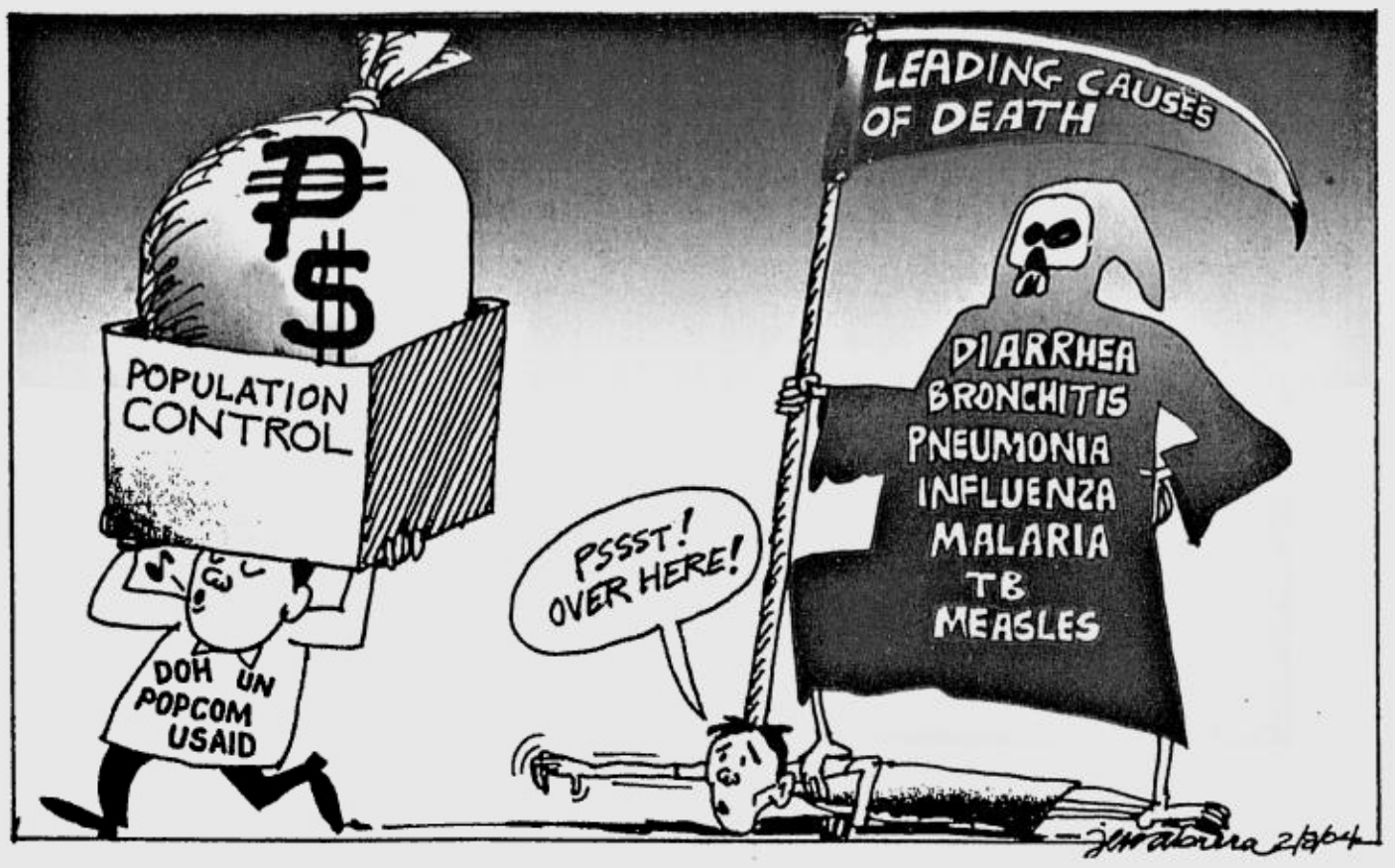
At the very least, the President's search committees should have started their work several months ago. In fact, in her dramatic I-will-not-run speech on Rizal Day two years ago and in a couple of major speeches that followed, the President identified clean and fair elections as one of her reform legacies. At that time, she must have already known that Lantion and Tancangco were scheduled to retire this month. Surely, a year is enough time to choose qualified nominees.

Unless, of course, opposition reelectionist Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. was telling the truth. The other week, Pimentel charged that the President was about to name two officials of the Gloria Bantay Balota, an election monitoring group reportedly organized by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, to the Comelec. The Palace immediately denied the claim. Pimentel, who famously held the microphone for Ms Macapagal when she took her oath as President in January 2001 but is now running under the banner of opposition coalition candidate Fernando Poe Jr., is not invulnerable to accusations of politicking.

But the President's no-rush approach is a curious reaction to Pimentel's charge. Instead of claiming she needed more time to choose replacements, shouldn't the President have announced her nominees instead? If electoral reform was on her agenda as early as December 2002, shouldn't she already have a nominee in mind to immediately replace Tancangco, the one person identified by civil-society advocates as an obstacle to reform?

There is also the issue of urgency. The campaign period for national elective office starts in two days; the elections will be held in only three months; the Comelec is undermanned at the exact time its energies are consumed by the automated elections fiasco. Surely the time to announce the new commissioners is sooner rather than later.

The President's advisers may think that, by taking her time, by not bowing to pressure, Ms Macapagal will eventually be seen as doing everything necessary to appoint credible, independent commissioners. Nonsense. Her new appointees will be perceived as credible only if they are independent, not because the President could not be rushed into making up her mind.



'Swamped with incompetence'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT is a curious feature of our present Constitution that, although it requires educational qualifications for its appointive officials, it does not impose similar requirements for its elective officials. This discrimination is not new. It was in fact also maintained in the Constitutions of 1935 and 1973 and, even before that, in the Jones Law of 1916 and the Philippine Bill of 1902.

The difference in the treatment of elective and appointive officials must have been based on the American thinking that the average voter would have the necessary circumspection in assessing the candidates' recommendations, including their academic credentials, if any. The lack of these was not to be considered a liability. It was presumed that, because of their own training and experience, they would be able to exercise their right of choice judiciously, with the loyalty to the democratic ethos and the innate wisdom expected of the responsible voter.

During the fledgling years of the United States, suffrage was not available to the American citizenry in general whose intelligence the leaders of the country then did not trust. This right was restricted to the educated "electors" who exercised it for the rest of the nation. Curiously, although the ordinary American has come of age and can now competently exercise the right of suffrage, that system is still observed in the election of the president and vice president of the United States. In 2000, Al Gore won the popular vote but lost the electoral vote that made George W. Bush president.

Until the aberration of Joseph Estrada's election as president, it was also believed in this country that the average Filipino voter had already achieved the needed political maturity to enable him to exercise his suffrages wisely. There was the usual problem of goons and gold that marred the elections every so often, and sometimes on a national scale. But the election was never so debased as when it swept the inept Erap into Malacañang over his better qualified rivals in 1998. The shameful record of his shameless reign is a bitter judgment on his inane choice by the mindless *masa*.

Significantly, the Constitution carefully lays down academic requirements for the appointive officials it has entrusted with sensitive duties. These qualifications are intended to guide and at the same time limit the appointing power in their selection. Additionally, such officials are subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments as a further precaution against the improvident choice of unworthy and ill-prepared appointees.

Thus, the members of the Civil Service Commission must have "proven capacity for public administration"; the members of the Commission on Elections must be "holders of a college degree" and "a majority of them, including the chairman, must be members of the Philippine bar who have been engaged in the practice of law for at least ten years"; and the members of the Commission on Audit must be "certified public accountants with not less than ten years of auditing experience" or "members of the Philippine bar who have been engaged in the practice of law for at least ten years." The Ombudsman and his deputies must be "members of the Philippine bar" as so too must a majority of the Human Rights Commission.

Even the Chief Justice and the associate justices of the Supreme Court "must have been for fifteen years or more a judge of a lower court or engaged in the practice of law in the Philippines." Judges of lower courts must at least be members of the Philippine bar. Judges and the Ombudsman and his deputies, who are not confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, are previously screened by the Judicial and Bar Council.

While even ordinary members of the classified civil service have to prove their educational competence by passing the civil service examinations, elective officials are not similarly tested. All such officials, from the President of the Philippines to the lowest barangay councilman, are not required to possess actual or presumptive intelligence and may validly discharge their offices (competently or not) as long as they have been validly chosen (wisely or not) by the thinking or unthinking electorate.

I believe that elective officials should also satisfy minimum educational requirements to guarantee the proper performance of their functions or at least prevent their improper discharge. Mere ability to read and write is not enough; even idiots can be literate. High positions in the government, beginning with the presidency of the Philippines, should be occupied by at least secondary school graduates as a minimum assurance of their intelligence. Completion of a month-long crash course on economics, diplomacy, government, and related subjects cannot make a hopeless ignoramus an instant egghead.

This matter should be the subject of serious consideration by the constitutional convention to be called for the revision of the present charter. Steps should be taken to prevent the advent of another pretender lest our country is foolishly again, in the words of Justice Holmes, "swamped with incompetence."

Called by God

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a fair-haired worker who was organizing the procession for the town fiesta. He got the microphone and said: "All the men follow the statue of St. Joseph. All the women follow the statue of Mama Mary. All those in between... follow me!"

* * *

It is interesting to note that in today's Gospel (Lk. 15:1-11) Jesus called His disciples not from the crowd but from those who were in the periphery, those caught in between making a living and living a life. Apparently, they were not religious or exemplary by worldly standards, but Jesus caught sight of them. He saw something in them. He saw their potentials. He saw their hearts. It is very consoling to know that our God is a God with a heart, who sees our hearts with his heart. Let us thank Him with all our hearts, for He sees the goodness, the potential in each one of us, and He never gives up on us.

* * *

Jesus called those who were already spent and were already washing their nets, having caught nothing the whole night. Again, it is very assuring to know that God's call is unstained. He calls us in. In our weakness and in our unworthiness. No one is a "*laos*" (hasbeen) in God's heart. God is faithful. Let us be grateful. A true disciple is one who never forgets what he has received from God, and one who never remembers what he has given to God.

* * *

God has a hard time dealing with proud people, those who think of themselves as big, worthy, or even indispensable. When pride sets in, it won't be long before discipleship vanishes. As we go on, let us keep repeating what Peter said: "Lord if you say so... Lord I am a sinful man." These words should be our constant prayer, and our guiding reminder and principle. God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies those whom He calls. God calls us not so much because of us but in spite of us. There is so much talk about the qualification needed by a leader these days, even to the point of deriding and looking down on some of them. Certainly we need to be sure, but if you look at those whom God called through history, many were not qualified by human standards. They were often hesitant or even downright unwilling. Did not the people also look down on Jesus: "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Careful, careful. Do not be hasty in judging and looking down on people of "lesser value."

* * *

God's call is not exclusive. We who are called should also call others, as Simon called his partners in the other boat to help them haul in the large amount of fish that they caught at Jesus' word. The more, the happier, and the better. If you are someone who is burdened by all the work and the saving that have to be done in the world, think again. You are not alone. It is God's work. He will help you. Allow others to help, too.

* * *

There will be a lot of "catching men" as the elections draw near. Let us be careful of leaders out to lure us, entice us and later on catch and imprison us. May the Lord deliver us from leaders who are wolves dressed in lamb's clothing. Let us choose leaders with a vision and with a mission and not those with ambition.

* * *

We made our "cast into the deep" this week in the beautiful island of Bohol. In our healing Mass at the Cathedral in Tagbilaran City, we were so edified by the large number of people who came and by their response to God's love. The harvest indeed is bountiful, but the laborers are few. Remember, you and I must be busy casting our nets and widening our nets for the Lord. Have you brought anybody closer to God? Don't keep the faith. Share it.

* * *

While in Tagbilaran I had the privilege of meeting the family of Fr. Val Darunday, SVD, especially his mother Abundia, who at 97, is strong, lucid and still so full of humor. This generous mother never hesitated to offer her two sons, Val and Celoy, to the service of the Lord. Through their dedicated service, the warmth and love radiating in her heart and in her family continue to radiate so much love wherever they are. May we all become "radiators" of God's love.

* * *

Valentine's Day reminds us again that God has given us not only minds that think and hands that work, but also hearts that feel and love. Let us not belittle the heart and matters of the heart. The theme of our first Friday Mass at the Holy Name University summed it up so well: "The Sacred Heart and Human Love." All human love must begin and end in the heart of God. Let us this moment invite the Lord to come into our hearts. Unless the Lord changes our hearts, there can be no real change and progress in our hearts, in our homes, in our society and in the world. Happy Valentine's Day! May God bless you. May God fill your hearts with peace and love overflowing.

* * *

A Moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to follow you with all my heart, and to really serve you the rest of my life. Amen.

Naughty boy

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

IN THE LONG history of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, it has been some time since a general officer has been reprimanded verbally and in writing by the AFP chief of staff himself. The reprimand issued last week by Gen. Narciso Abaya was aimed at Brig. Gen. Victor N. Corpus, chief, Civil Relations Service, for his remarks in an interview with media, denouncing Sen. Loren Legarda as a "political prostitute" who would do anything to strengthen her bid for power in the coming elections. The reprimand was delivered personally by the chief of staff in an hour-long meeting with the controversial officer, who only several months ago resigned from his post as chief, Intelligence Service, AFP, only to resurface as head of the AFP Civil Relations Service. Reading him the riot act, Abaya said, "Your statements have placed the AFP in a bad light especially as it succeeds in generating unwarranted criticism against the AFP," and gave Corpus stern warning that a repetition of the same offense would result in more drastic, disciplinary action.

Actually, considering the serious and uncalled for accusations made by Corpus, which received wide publicity in the media, the reprimand was the equivalent of a mild tap on the wrist. In the Articles of War, governing the conduct of persons subject to military law, Article 63 provides that "any officer who uses contemptuous or disrespectful words against the President, Vice President, the Congress of the Philippines, or the Secretary of National Defense, shall be dismissed from the service, or suffer such other punishments as a court martial may direct." Article 91 also provides that "no person subject to military law shall use any reproachful or provoking speeches or gestures to others," and shall also be punished as a court martial may direct. But as is widely known, Corpus is the *niño bonito* of the administration. So it is unlikely that he will be relieved from his post or meted out more serious punishment. For all we know, he may have been prodded into making his remarks by Palace spin doctors and in the current political atmosphere, anything goes.

Considering his background, Corpus should be the last person to come up with this type of criticism. It can only tarnish or diminish an otherwise principled reputation. But my greatest concern is that he has damaged the institution he now serves by his remarks which tend to cast doubts about the apolitical character of the men and women of the AFP. I have no love lost for many of the characters now strutting across the national stage, but it is important particularly for our officers in the active service, to maintain a strict sense, as well as appearance, of neutrality so as to preserve the credibility of the organization.

If I may be allowed to give my good friend, Vic Corpus, some unsolicited advice, perhaps now is the time to focus his attention on environmental concerns and agricultural endeavors which have long been among his favorites. But on the other hand, if he wants to engage and participate in the political mudslinging now taking place, it is best to first hang up the uniform before joining the circus.

Incidentally, most news reports describe Corpus as a member of PMA Class 1969. He actually belongs to PMA Class 1967 and was the winner of the Athletic Sabre for excellence in sports activities. He counts among his illustrious classmates Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) head, Gen. Anselmo Avenido who, aside from graduating No. 1 in the class, also garnered most of the awards during graduation day at the PMA.

* * *

In 1999 while serving as Nato commander during the war in Kosovo, Gen. Wesley Clark, now one of the leading contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination, was urging his superiors in the Pentagon to use ground forces against President Milosevic of Serbia. Nato was basically conducting an air war and Clark wanted the threat of ground attack to frighten Milosevic into submission. US Defense Secretary William Cohen and the chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Hugh Shelton, were against any such action and forbade Clark from further talk about a ground invasion. But for some reason, Clark disregarded their instructions and conducted a press conference calling for the introduction of ground units.

In his memoirs, "Waging Modern War," Clark wrote that after he had conducted the above press conference, he received a telephone call from Shelton informing him what the White House thought about his press conference. Shelton said: "The Secretary of Defense asked me to give you some verbatim guidance, so here it is: 'Get your f—g face off the TV. No more briefings. That's it. I just wanted to give it to you like he said it. Do you have any questions?'" A few months later, Clark was informed that his appointment as Nato commander was being shortened. He had expected getting the regular extension of another year but his ceaseless disagreements with the Pentagon made an extension impossible. He was not provided the traditional courtesies of relief in an orderly and dignified manner. Even today, the recriminations remain with a number of his colleagues in the service speaking openly against his presidential candidacy.

Ahmed Bishara

EYE ON ASIA

Karim Raslan

AHMED Bishara is a gruff, chain-smoking Kuwaiti chemical engineering professor whom I met recently in the Qatari capital of Doha, at a conference convened by Washington, D.C.'s Brookings Institution on relations between the United States and the Islamic World. Given the venue, (Qatar has been a critical ally for the Americans vis-à-vis Iraq) Ahmed's staunchly pro-US views might seem understandable.

Still, his low-key delivery and opinions come as a surprise to those who expect all Arabs to be rabidly anti-US. Amid the strong anti-war feeling in the Middle East, it's often easy to overlook the experiences of those—mostly Kuwaitis and Iraqis—who suffered at the hands of Saddam Hussein and his regime.

Ahmed is not just a "nerdy" scientist. He is clearly a man with a lot to say, dividing his time between a teaching post at the Kuwait University and a number of journalistic and editorial gigs. He is a tall, 59-year-old whose heavy-boned body fills out his Arab *jellabayah*.

Educated in the States, at the universities of Columbia and Michigan (where he secured a Ph.D.), his spoken English is confident albeit infused with slight Americanisms, like the phrase "taking out" that punctuates his conversation.

"There are people—and I am one—who thought that it was worth taking Saddam out. The countries in the region couldn't do it. Who else could? It had to be the Americans."

Still, his views—while unpalatable to those who disagree strongly with the Bush presidency—are still valid. Moreover, it's hard not to be moved when you listen to Ahmed describing in his phlegmatic manner the impact of the Iraqi invasion on his small country.

"The invasion was the end of life as I knew it. In a blink I lost my business—it was looted and my car was stolen. I was lucky though. Other friends and family lost everything. At the time of the invasion, I was actually outside the country with two of my older children. My wife and the younger kids were still in Kuwait. I had to cross the desert by car to return home."

"The city had been looted. Saddam's troops started with the main showrooms and private businesses. Then they targeted the uninhabited houses, then later, the ordinary homes. It was totally lawless. There was no authority except for the Iraqi military and they were doing much of the looting and raping. There was no one you could complain to!

"My wife and I decided that we should stick it out, that we shouldn't flee. It was all very uncertain in the months when the US forces were being amassed on the border. Here we were surrounded by Iraqi troops. We didn't know anything. Would we be bombing targets? It was scary. On the morning of 15th January when the Americans actually crossed the border, I can remember my wife bursting into tears. Although we were hopeful—we wanted to be liberated—the reality of what might go wrong finally hit her."

Ahmed is particularly contemptuous of Saddam's betrayal of his own men, and the way he himself fled almost immediately after the Americans had invaded Kuwait.

"I will never forget the sight of all those Iraqi men as they were fleeing Kuwait. It was the 24th February and it was raining. There were miles and miles of traffic. The leadership had abandoned them. They were panicking and asking for mercy. It was pathetic. It was a regime that wasn't worth saving. Betrayal was Saddam's hallmark. A man who'll betray his own people will betray anyone."

When asked whether it was possible to compare the Iraqi invasion back in 1991 with the United States' invasion last year, he snorts with disdain.

"The Iraqi troops were there to loot! It was Saddam's way of appeasing them for sticking by him: basically Kuwait was fair game. The Americans are trying to 'give' in Iraq. The situation is not comparable in any way."

When asked about Iran, he is quick to differentiate the Shi'ite theocracy from its neighbor, Iraq.

"Iraq has a history of belligerence. Saddam's track record has been exceptionally brutal and ugly. There is no comparison between the two and Iran is entirely different. The present regime has its own self-correcting mechanism. It has a (partly) elected parliament and an elected president. There is a surprisingly large margin of freedom of expression. The quarrel in Iran is between the mullahs and the majority of the population who disagree with their approach."

He cautions those who would jump to conclusions from afar to bear in mind the complexity of Middle Eastern politics and history.

"The closer you get to Iraq, the better an understanding you'll get. The situation is clouded by the way the Americans have taken the lead. Nobody else had the capability to act, and millions of Iraqis (not to mention Iranians) suffered at his hands. The disunity in the West between the Europeans and the Americans only adds to the distrust. Then we have to add the major errors of judgment. But time will tell and I'm confident for the Iraqis."

Still, Ahmed remains confident and his certainty is disconcerting for those of us who deplore American adventurism. Nonetheless, we have to respect what he has been through and remember that there are always two sides to a story.

"However, I confess I am happy that those who damaged my country and my people suffered themselves. That evil group has been taken out. Now the Iraqis have the chance to build their future," Ahmed said.

It's not about us

COMMENTARY

Fr. Ferdinand R.S. Santos, Ph.D.

ONE entry that caught my attention on a recent visit to the INQUIRER website was President Macapagal-Arroyo's warning to business leaders in the Philippines—that we'll turn into the "laughingstock of the world" if she weren't elected president. OK, I thought. I guess that can be argued. Instead, the response she got was, "Aren't we already?"

Then there was the story about a Manila bishop berating our political and government leaders for having squandered the blessings of Edsa I and II. As if the Church's failure over two decades in propagating the Christian values and principles, with the Edsas as anchor, played no part in the squandering.

Column after column lament the loss of our "status" in our part of the world, commenting on endless surveys showing how far we've lagged behind our Asian neighbors, how poor our command of English has become, how damaged and corrupt our society and culture are.

I really don't know which is tougher reading: comments on how things seem to be unfolding real bad in our country these days, or pathetic claims such as that made by Ms Macapagal, or the bishop's response to it.

Have we sunk so low that our favorite pastime and guilt-trips have come to define our identity as a people? And it really doesn't help when those who are supposed to inspire and edify us choose to plunge us deeper into the mud instead of pulling us out. The latter, I guess, is more difficult and requires more creativity and brains.

At the beginning of the old Catholic Mass, people used to beat their breasts and say, "*Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa*" (My fault, my fault, my biggest fault). They were lines meant to remind a person that while one could bungle life pretty badly at times, he could learn from mistakes, pick himself up and need not wallow in guilt.

Failure is real. But so is triumph. Defeat is real, but why dwell on it needlessly? Why keep on scratching the scabs that form over our slowly healing wounds?

How often did I hear my grandfather relishing those days when the Philippines was the second most progressive country in Asia next to Japan after World War II, and when the peso-dollar exchange rate was 2 to 1? In grade school, we learned that we used to teach students from Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam at the International Rice Research Institute. I grew up being reminded that Filipinos used to speak excellent English, that our public school system was the envy of our Asian neighbors. Well, three decades later, I'm still hearing these things. For what? So we can learn from our past? Don't we find it even a bit odd that while endlessly talking about our past, we seem to be stuck there?

Well, who cares? Do we think the world gives a hoot about what we Filipinos think of ourselves? They don't. They'd normally care more about a toothache than about whether or not we Filipinos are getting the recognition we deserve. And you know what? There's a point when we shouldn't care either. We should stop gazing into our mirrors and worrying whether we "look good" or not. Then perhaps we'll start being "real good."

Socrates, the father of Western philosophy, and one of the wisest persons of all times used to counsel his students: "The unexamined life is not worth living." Another philosopher, thousands of years later, quipped in return: "Sure, but the overly examined life isn't worth living either."

Self-examination has become our national pastime, and wondering whether we look good has come to define our identity. That is what's really tragic—because we're missing the point, and our self-analysis has brought nothing but self-paralysis. One grows when one "lives outside the confines of oneself," when he turns all his energies to living "out in the world," making something of himself, living for others and doing good to them, and then not thinking too much about it.

We're just too self-absorbed as a people. Is it any wonder many of us are star-struck? Even our men preen in front of mirrors, and carry combs in their pockets.

Well, it's time to remind ourselves: "It's not about us." It's about living life to the full, and not thinking too much of it. The greatest paradox of life is that one only truly succeeds in making something out of himself when he has learned not to think of himself too much. The self is only found when one has learned to let it go.

We're a believing people. Perhaps we should take the advise of another believer who discovered, almost a thousand years ago, the recipe for genuine victory in life:

"Only in giving do we receive,
only in forgiving do we find forgiveness,
and only in dying [to an unhealthy self-absorption] do we come upon life [and all its fullness]."

It's time we stopped analyzing ourselves to death and get on with the business of picking ourselves up from the pit. It can be done. We've done it before. We can do it again. But as those climbing steep cliffs will tell you, you won't get to where you want to go by staring at your hands and feet all the time, wondering how they look like.

Fr. Ferdinand R.S. Santos, Ph.D., teaches philosophy and theology at Providence College in Rhode Island, USA. At one time he was a chaplain at the University of the Philippines, and taught at the Ateneo de Manila, De La Salle University and San Carlos Seminary.

The making of the 'masa' vote

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

BY "*MASA*," I refer to the class of voters that pollsters identify with the so-called "E" and the middle and lower rungs of the "D" strata. They constitute roughly about 60 to 75 percent of the nation's voting population. The existence of such huge numbers at the bottom of the social ladder attests to the gravity and persistence of poverty in our country. It also gives us an idea of the kind of forces that drive Philippine elections in our time.

Joseph Estrada rode to the presidency in 1998 on the wings of the *masa* vote. Fernando Poe Jr. is likely to follow the same route if his detractors fail to stop his candidacy. And President Macapagal-Arroyo is pulling out all stops in a frenzied effort to buy the gratitude of the poor, hoping to split their vote. What she lacks in charisma she is determined to make up for by acts of patronage. She has a long way to go. No matter how one looks at it, this is going to be the most expensive election in the nation's political history.

The *masa* or the poor have not always played such a decisive role in our elections. Up to the time of Marcos, their numbers were part of what analysts call "command" votes. These are votes that ward leaders, stewards of bailiwicks, political parties, and other interest groups confidently promise and deliver to their principals. Command votes have diminished over time, mainly, I think, as a result of the political emancipation of the poor from their traditional patrons and handlers. Political strategists today are now more interested in the so-called "market" votes, voters without permanent loyalties, who respond to a broad range of messages and enticements.

In the past, the poor did not have political opinions of their own. They trusted and relied on the judgment of those whom they respected or feared in their communities, those who wielded moral and economic power over them. These were the landlords, religious leaders, the few respected professionals in their communities, and the active movers and shakers of local electoral contests. That era has passed without our realizing it.

Thirteen years of martial law killed the traditional political parties and made elections meaningless exercises. But more importantly, with the advent of overseas contract employment in the mid-'70s, many were freed from the circuits of the feudal system. Because of workers' remittances, cash began to circulate in the countryside, permitting the country's poor to enjoy modern conveniences that until then had been the exclusive privilege of the rich and the middle classes. Access to television exemplified this limited form of democratization.

The phenomenal spread of television broke the isolation of the *masa* from the national life. Television networks had to adjust to the new reality that the bulk of their viewers were no longer the middle and upper classes. The first adjustment was in the language used. They began airing more programs in Filipino, although these were at first mainly sitcoms and variety shows. Until 1986, news and public affairs programs were broadcast entirely in English, mirroring the print media's bias for English as a medium of serious political discourse. Things changed very fast after the Edsa People Power uprising. The democratization of television viewership compelled the use of Filipino as the language of public opinion. It produced the unintended but salutary effect of awakening the poor to their political rights.

Unlike in the past when the *masa* felt so estranged from public affairs that they had to turn to their moral elders and political overseers for advice on national issues, today they confidently express their views on nearly everything. We can say that because serious opinion need no longer be made in English, the *masa* have recovered the power of public speech.

Of course, the information they need to be able to make sound judgments on the weighty issues of the national life may not always be adequate. What is important is they now believe they know enough about the workings of government to feel entitled to trust their own political instincts. The spread of television has also had the effect of demystifying politicians, and removing the awe with which the poor used to regard personalities in public life. It is the political class that has suffered most from this sea change in consciousness. Professional politicians, with only a few exceptions, are no longer regarded as a noble breed, but as a class of opportunists and dishonest persons. This revulsion partly explains why the *masa* are turning to popular non-politicians for leadership.

It is unfortunate that the disgust for professional politicians has also encouraged among the poor a dangerous anti-intellectualism. Betrayed by the educated, they now tend to disparage the importance of solid education as a condition for effective leadership in a complex world. What is crucial to them is sincerity above all, and we can hardly blame them.

To have leaders our people can trust is a good beginning. It will bring to our society the unity it so badly needs. But it is not enough. Much work lies ahead. We need to reinvent our institutions so they can draw strength from the instincts of our people. We have to rebuild our communities from the ruins in which the haphazard march to modernity has left them. That is how a nation is built.

* * *

Comments to randolf@pacific.net.ph

IN THE NEWS

Luzviminda Tancangco

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Can peso survive elections?

THE PESO closed at a record low of P56.20 to the US dollar on Feb. 3. The day before, Philippine shares fell 4.06 percent, the single biggest decline in 17 months.

Investment analysts attribute the decline in Philippine stocks to the country's political instability and the weakening of the peso.

Foreign investors were seen as triggering the decline in the peso and the drop in the main share index. Worried over the political and economic uncertainties, they dumped shares and bonds and bought the dollars they brought in at the start of the year.

The huge budget deficit is among the factors that keep investors edgy. The deficit (P199 billion in 2003) was one reason Moody's Investor Service downgraded the country's credit rating. A rating downgrade increases the government's cost of borrowing. The International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank have also expressed concern over the looming fiscal crisis.

On the political front, the announcement by junior officers that Malacañang was using the military to restrict the movement of the opposition presidential candidates and their warning of unrest in the military also spooked the markets.

But more than this, the prospects of having another actor run the country are said to be keeping the peso down. Throw in the threats by certain groups to scuttle the elections and just name a transition head of state and a peaceful transfer of political power come June 30 becomes less certain.

With a weak peso, Filipinos will have to face higher costs of utilities, fuel and food and of almost everything.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

No doubt it can

By Amando Tetangco Jr.
Deputy Governor
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

There is no doubt that the peso can survive the elections as it had survived numerous challenges in the past.

The peso has been hounded by a slew of non-economic factors that we at the central bank believe are temporary.

If we only consider economic factors, there is no reason for the peso to be volatile because the economy is doing relatively well in terms of growth, price stability, external payments and dollar reserves.

Growth as measured by gross domestic product expansion was 4.5 percent in 2003 and is expected to hit at least 4.9 percent this year. Inflation rate stood at a modest 3.1 percent last year and should stay within four to five percent for the year. The balance-of-payments position managed to post a surplus of $108 million last year while the gross international reserves ended 2003 stood at $16.815 billion.

At the same time, we have seen an improvement in the fiscal sector. The government announced that the budget deficit in 2003 stood at P199.86 billion. The ceiling was P202 billion.

But despite these sound economic numbers, the peso is reacting more to the political noises largely due to the forthcoming elections.

But once the elections are over, we believe the focus will return to economic fundamentals and the peso will improve.

Many factors influence exchange rate

By Filomeno S. Sta. Ana III
Coordinator
Action for Economic Reforms

The talk of the town is the volatility of the exchange rate and the peso depreciation. Some say the problem arises chiefly from the political uncertainty attendant to the forthcoming elections. Others give greater weight to the economic fundamentals, particularly the country's untamed budget deficit and overborrowing, the reason behind the downgrading of the country's credit rating. Or it could be the work of manipulators and speculators.

We can gain a better understanding of the present complications by first recapitulating the factors that influence or determine the movement of the exchange rate.

At the basic level, the country's imports and exports predict the exchange rate. A huge trade or current account deficit—that is, import payments exceed export earnings—results in the depreciation of the peso. One item worth mentioning is the oil bill because the country is dependent on imported crude oil. Nevertheless, the official data on the country's current account indicate that, with other factors constant, the exchange rate should remain stable. Latest available data show a current account surplus, albeit with a slight deficit in trade.

Devaluation

Incidentally, a surplus likewise marks the balance of payments. A significant inflow of foreign currency leads to an appreciation of the currency. A massive outflow of foreign currency results in devaluation.

Another basic determinant of the exchange rate is purchasing power parity (PPP)—that is, relative price levels or inflation rates. The PPP principle states that the exchange rate of the Philippine peso and the foreign currency is in equilibrium when both currencies can buy the same basket of goods and services.

To simplify, suppose that the exchange rate is P50 to $1. Suppose, too, that the inflation rate in the Philippines is 10 percent and is zero for the rest of the world in a given year. Holding other factors constant, we can expect the peso to depreciate by 10 percent. The real value of a particular good has increased by 10 percent in the Philippines. If the currency remains fixed (does not depreciate) because of policy intervention, the imported good, say, a Big Mac hamburger, becomes cheaper than the local Big Mac. The rational, calculating man will exchange his P50 for $1 to buy the imported Big Mac sandwich, instead of purchasing the local burger that costs P55. The reality though is that current inflation in the Philippines is low; hence relative prices cannot explain the recent peso depreciation.

In the past, the Philippines was forced to suddenly devalue the currency because, in the first place, the authorities had preferred an artificially strong local currency. To shore up the peso, the monetary authorities adopted a high interest-rate policy, which was costly to growth, investments and employment. The misaligned exchange rate, in the form of a strong but overvalued peso, eventually led to the financial crisis in 1997.

OFWs

But note that depreciation can be beneficial in a different context. At the very least, the nominal rate must be aligned to its real value, and this suggests letting the peso depreciate. Here, the overseas Filipino workers and their dependents are obvious gainers. Further, a depreciated currency contributes to the competitiveness of both export-oriented and import-substituting industries.

Philippine exports become attractive abroad because of the cheaper foreign price. Despite this, recent export performance is disappointing, suggesting that the export sector is beset with structural problems. Import-substituting industries also benefit because the competing imports become more expensive. The depreciation likewise becomes an instrument to protect jobs in both export and import-substituting industries.

Of course, depreciation has its costs. Importers are affected. Prices of imported goods, which at any rate are consumed mainly by upper and middle classes, increase. Also, the peso equivalent to service the foreign debt increases.

Having ruled out the external balance and relative prices as the chief causes of the recent currency depreciation, we can then proceed to discuss the risk factor—both economic and political—as a crucial determinant of the exchange rate.

Macroeconomic stability is undoubtedly a primary concern of investors. But investors are not fixated on short-term performance; they probe into the foreseeable future. Hence, even if most of the economic indicators look good at present—resilient growth, low inflation, healthy trade balance—investors give weight to other factors, which they perceive to have a damaging effect in the medium term. Even if the rate of return to capital in the Philippines is at tractive at the moment, investors will still hesitate to bring in foreign currency, precisely because of the risk and uncertainty.

Achilles heel

The chronic budget deficit and unsustainable government borrowing have become the Achilles heel of the economy. The news and the noise brought about by the not-too-subtle criticisms of the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank on the looming fiscal crisis, Moody's downgrading of the country's credit rating and Standard Chartered Bank's dire scenario of an Argentine-type of debt crisis have unnerved investors.

The political risk is likewise damaging to investors. It is vital that the electoral process be seen as fair and clean and the results credible. But recent political developments are disquieting. To name a few: the alleged tampering of archival documents to disqualify the leading presidential aspirant, the re-enactment of the 2003 budget, giving the incumbent huge discretionary funds, the covert political actions within the military, and the bribing of local officials to obtain their loyalty.

All this reinforces the view that the forthcoming elections will be costly, dirty, and antagonistic. Markets thus become edgy. It makes sense for investors and traders to anticipate the worst circumstances.

Fundamentals are sound

By John McGowan
Treasurer, HSBC

The country has been through many elections and the peso has always survived. Political uncertainties during an election normally cause volatility in the exchange rate. We have seen this in the past in other countries like the United States and Britain.

If we look back when the country changed president in January 2001, the peso appreciated in one day from P54.50 to P47.50. I believe this is one of the largest improvements the peso experienced in a day and this was due to the fact that the political uncertainties had been removed.

Naturally, there will be volatility in the exchange rate in the run up to the elections, but once a clear mandate is given to a president in a clean and honest election, then the volatility will diminish.

The country has been through more difficult challenges in the past and there is no doubt that once the elections are over the direction of the peso will be driven by the economic fundamentals, which are sound.

Polls have no direct impact on currency

By Sergio Ortiz-Luis
President, Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc.

There is no reason for it not to. In the first place, we find the market's preoccupation with politics and negative developments to be exaggerated.

In the past, elections had no direct impact on the peso although it could drive up inflation because of election-related spending.

We must veer away from the thinking that the exchange rate has something to do with politics or how we pick the candidates. The important thing is for the elections to be conducted peacefully and credibly.

I would like to clarify the perception that exporters are happy when the peso weakens. This is not really the case. Only exporters who had closed a deal when the peso was low benefit from a weaker Philippine currency.

When the peso is volatile, it is difficult for us exporters to calculate our production costs and consequently, our pricing. It is dangerous to price the product when the peso is fluctuating.

Also, the biggest exporters like those engaged in electronics and semiconductors are heavy importers. So, in effect, the benefit from a weaker peso is offset by the higher cost of importing.

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Chief of C. Luzon drug rehab center defies relief order

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The executive director of the Central Luzon Drug Rehabilitation Center continued to defy the relief order of Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., chief of the Philippine National Police, following reports of maltreatment of patients in the center.

Senior Supt. Conrado Briton, CLDRC executive director, agreed to only file an indefinite leave of absence as the police investigated the maltreatment cases.

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According to him, this position was "non-existent" and that the center, which he himself headed in the last four years, was not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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More Army, PNP men deployed to Negros

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"One of the indications why I said that is the fact that people in the mountains are now providing us information about the NPAs," he said.

He added NPAs in the province are now very mobile because they wanted to let the people feel their presence. Their difficulty in getting the support of the people, the governor said, is also one of the reasons the rebels cannot stay long in one place. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Suspended gov wages war against takeover

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Tension gripped anew the Misamis Oriental Provincial Capitol on Thursday evening after supporters of suspended Gov. Antonio Calingin violently resisted police-backed efforts to padlock his makeshift office, authorities said yesterday.

Board Member Norris Babiera told the INQUIRER that padlocking the makeshift governor's office at the Farmhouse, a facility for conventions and seminars, was part of the implementation of an order from Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr.

Despite his suspension because of irregularities and suspicion of graft in the P25-million provincial telephone expansion project, Calingin continues to perform his functions as governor.

He had secured an injunction late last year but the Court of Appeals later upheld the suspension order.

Malacañang has earlier installed Vice Gov. Miguel de Jesus as acting governor.

Chief Insp. Antonio Montalba, the police commander on the ground during the "takeover," said they tried to talk with Calingin's supporters but they were uncooperative.

He said when they forced their way in, the group led by lawyer Demosthenes Arbilon hurled stones and smoke grenades at the policemen.

Supporters of De Jesus, who accompanied the police, responded by also throwing stones.

Babiera said the police succeeded in padlocking the makeshift office on Friday after literally carrying out Arbilon and the other supporters of Calingin.

It was not specified how many of them were holed up in the makeshift office at the time of the police operation.

Meanwhile, Babiera said an inventory of heavy equipment, provincial facilities and service vehicles was being conducted after Calingin failed to turn over many of these despite his suspension.

Sources at the Capitol said there are reports Calingin has been using government equipment to build a road for his farm in Talakag, Bukidnon.

There are also reports he used government funds to pay casual employees working on his potato farm in Haruhay in Claveria, Misamis Oriental. *Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Protestant group loses labor case

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The National Labor Relations Commission has ordered the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) and its subsidiary, the Ecumenical Broadcast Systems Foundation, Inc. (EBSFI) to pay over half a million pesos to four employees they illegally terminated last year.

In a 17-page decision dated Jan. 29, 2004, labor arbiter Geoffrey Villahermosa of the NLRC in Dumaguete, ordered the NCCP and EBSFI to pay the four employees a total of P486,658.32 in damages, back wages and attorney's fees. He also found the NCCP and EBSFI liable for moral and exemplary damages in the amount of P120,000.

He also ordered the reinstatement of Nancy Ugsad Estolloso as station manager of radio station dySR-AM as well as news director Jhongie Rumol, reporter David Bryan Cortez and technician Wilfredo Paligsa without loss of seniority rights and privileges.

The non-stock, nonprofit NCCP, through the EBSFI, owns and operates two radio stations in Dumaguete, dySR-FM and dySR-AM, Dumaguete's first radio station established in 1950 as "Silliman Radio."

The four employees complained of illegal dismissal after they were issued letters of termination Aug. 28 last year even though there was a pending labor case lodged by them against the NCCP filed on July 23, 2003.

AIR SPORTS ARIAN NAEG/PDI PHOTO
Members of Kite Team Philippines Inc. show off skills in synchronized kite flying during the Aerosports Festival held at the Omni Aviation Complex in Clark, Pampanga.

Bodies of 4 kids missing in boat accident found

COTABATO CITY—Police authorities on Friday retrieved the bodies of three of the four missing children in the Feb. 5 Tamontaka River boat tragedy.

Insp. Samson Obatay, police station 3 director, said police fished out the remains of Mondarin, Sherin and three-year-old Al Hamji, all children of police officer Emlan Langeban.

Al Hamji's twin brother, Al Najji remains missing. The victims went missing in the turbulent river on Thursday after the boat they were riding in flipped over and capsized.

Langeban, who was navigating the boat, and his five other children managed to swim to safety.

The search ended in the discovery of the bodies after several days. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Leisure park faces suit over boy's accident

THE PARENTS of a boy who met an accident at a leisure park in Sta. Rosa, Laguna are threatening to file a suit to recover expenses they spent for the surgery and the subsequent treatment that the boy needed as a result of the accident.

The law firm Perlas, De Guzman, Antonio and Herbosa wrote to the Enchanted Kingdom seeking compensation of a total of P2.6 million representing expenses that the boy's parents incurred and damages.

On Nov. 16 last year, seven-year-old Randy Mañalac and his father were riding a Go-Kart inside the Enchanted Kingdom. While riding the kart, Randy's left foot fell into a slot in the kart, dragging the foot and resulting in severe injuries.

The boy went through a series of surgeries at the Makati Medical Center for almost a month.

Franco Cacho, of the Enchanged Kingdom, visited Randy at the hospital but said Enchanted Kingdom was not responsible but the Carmona Circuit Amusement Center (CCAC), owner and operator of the Go-Kart.

Cacho was quoted by the boy's father as saying that all Enchanted Kingdom could do was follow up assistance from the CCAC.

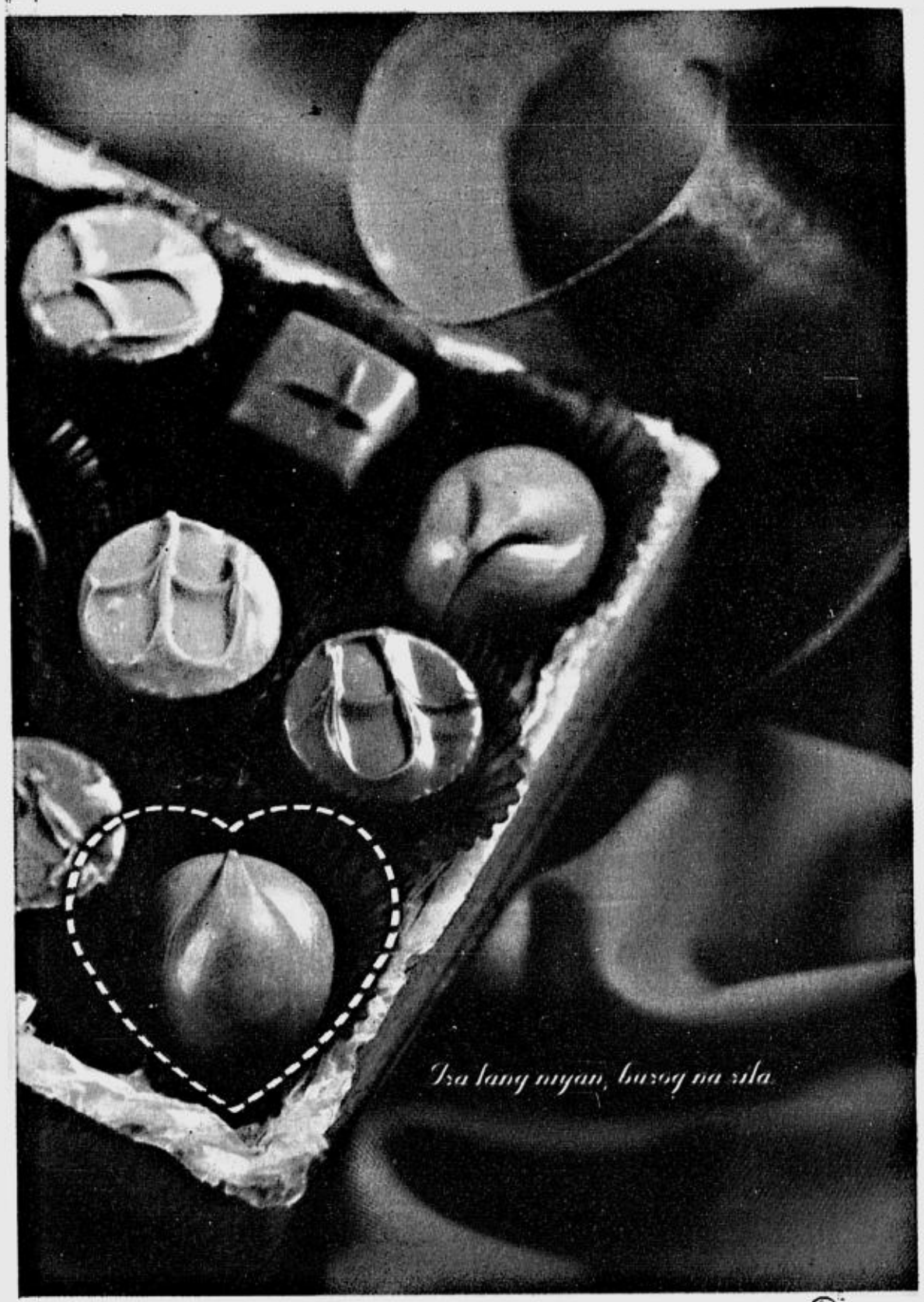
The boy checked out of the hospital on Dec. 10 last year without any assistance from either Enchanted Kingdom or the CCAC.

The boy's parents said there was no investigation made of the operations of the Go-Kart despite the accident.

"To date, despite promises, your office has not communicated to us or to our client regarding the reimbursement of (the expenses for the boy's surgery)," wrote the Perlas, De Guzman, Antonio and Herbosa law firm in a Jan. 7 letter to Enchanted Kingdom.

Efforts to contact officials or representatives of the Enchanted Kingdom were futile. Employees contacted at the park said they were not authorized to say anything and gave a number to call. But there was no one at the number given and officials of Enchanted would be available Monday, according to a man who answered the call.

"Your company seems apathetic in compensating what is due and demandable for our client," said the law firm in its letter.



Usong-uso mamigay ng tsokolate 'pag Valentine's Day. Pero sa presyo ng kahit isang pirasong tsokolate, isang buong araw na'ng pang-kain ng batang mahihirap.

Feeling Valentine's? Magbigay na rin sa Children's Hour. Just one hour's worth of your salary can help street children, child workers, and victims of sexual and physical abuse.

children's hour
Every hour is time well spent.

10F BPI Building, 6768 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Philippines Tel.: 894-1663, 894-5620 Telefax: 893-2236 www.childrenshour.org.ph

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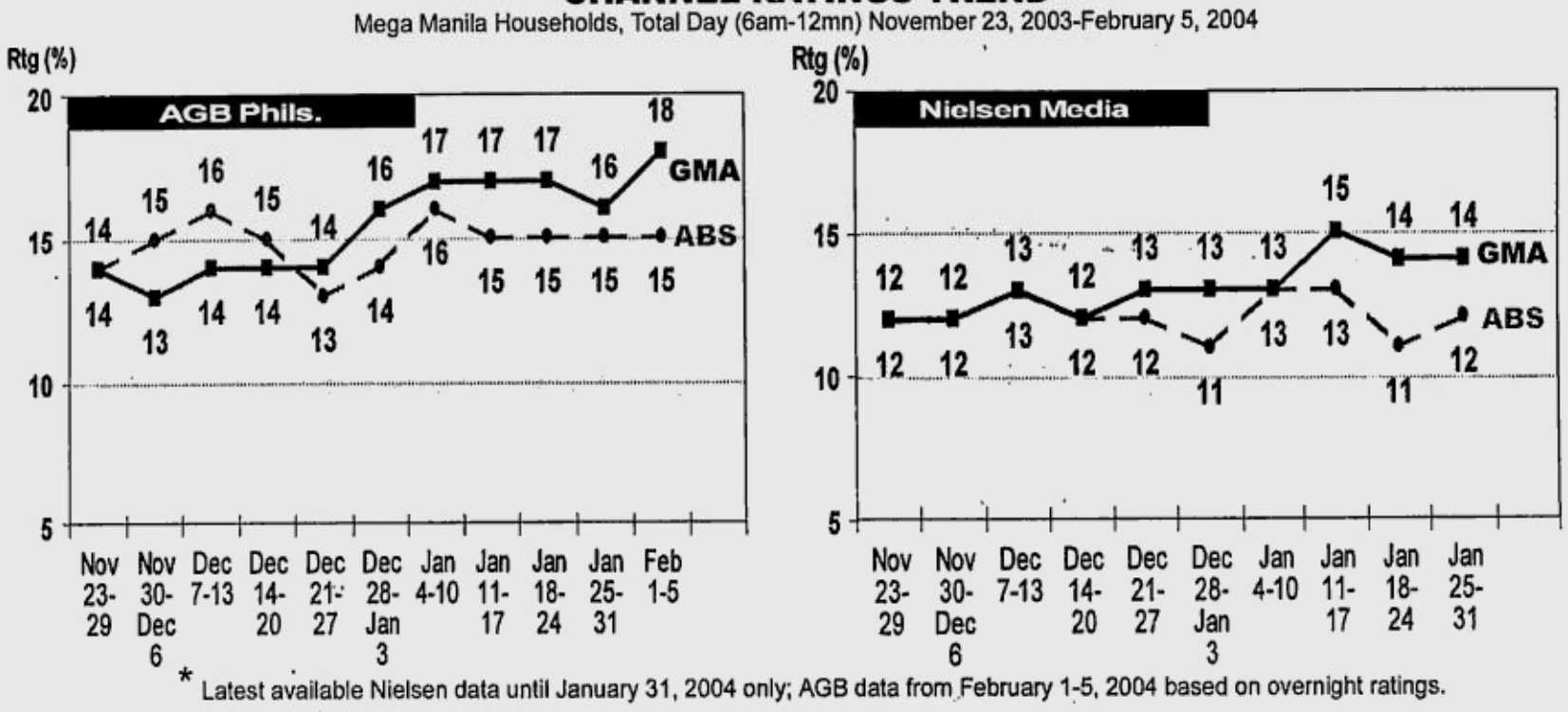
PATULOY TAYONG NANGUNGUNA, MGA KAPUSO!

GMA NETWORK

CHANNEL RATINGS TREND

Mega Manila Households, Total Day (6am-12mn) November 23, 2003-February 5, 2004



* Latest available Nielsen data until January 31, 2004 only; AGB data from February 1-5, 2004 based on overnight ratings.

WALA MANG WASTONG PALIWANAG HANGGANG NGAYON UKOL SA DI-PANGKARANIWANG MATAAS NA RATING SA CABLE NG ABS-CBN SA AGB

NANGUNGUNA PA RIN PO ANG MGA PROGRAMA NG GMA

AGB Phils.

Mega Manila, January 1-February 5, 2004*

**February 1-5, 2004 data are based on overnight ratings*

18 OUT OF TOP 30 PROGRAMS OVERALL
Total Day (6am-12mn)

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL
1	SANA'Y WALA NANG WAKAS	ABS-CBN
2	IT MIGHT BE YOU	ABS-CBN
3	BASTA'T KASAMA KITA	ABS-CBN
4	TE AMO: MAGING SINO KA MAN	GMA 7
5	IMBESTIGADOR	GMA 7
6	NEXT LEVEL NA GAME KNB?	ABS-CBN
7	STARSTRUCK	GMA 7
8	ENDLESS LOVE II	GMA 7
9	TV PATROL	ABS-CBN
10	EXTRA CHALLENGE	GMA 7
11	STAR CINEMA PRESENTS	ABS-CBN
12	WANSAPANATAYM	ABS-CBN
13	MAGANDANG GABI BAYAN	ABS-CBN
14	TWIN HEARTS	GMA 7
15	MAGPAKAILANMAN	GMA 7
16	MAALAALA MO KAYA	ABS-CBN
17	K I	GMA 7
18	GHOST FIGHTER	GMA 7
19	EAT BULAGA	GMA 7
20	NARITO ANG PUSO KO	GMA 7
21	FRONTPAGE ULAT NI MEL TIANGCO	GMA 7
22	DADDY DI DO DU	GMA 7
23	OK FINE WHATEVER!	ABS-CBN
24	IDOL KO SI KAP	GMA 7
25	DAISY SIETE	GMA 7
26	SUNDAY NIGHT BOX OFFICE	GMA 7
27	BUBBLE GANG	GMA 7
28	HOME ALONG DA AIRPORT	ABS-CBN
29	NUTS ENTERTAINMENT	GMA 7
30	VICTIM	ABS-CBN

10 OUT OF TOP 15 DAYTIME PROGRAMS
(6am-6pm)

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL
1	GHOST FIGHTER	GMA 7
2	EAT BULAGA	GMA 7
3	DAISY SIETE	GMA 7
4	THE TRUTH	ABS-CBN
5	DRAGON BALL	GMA 7
6	ENDLESS LOVE UNCUT	GMA 7
7	WALANG HANGGAN	GMA 7
8	STARTALK	GMA 7
9	DOLPHIN BAY	GMA 7
10	GATA SALVAJE	ABS-CBN
11	WISH KO LANG	GMA 7
12	S.O.P.	GMA 7
13	WESTSIDE STORY	ABS-CBN
14	ASAP MANIA	ABS-CBN
15	THE BUZZ	ABS-CBN

16 OUT OF TOP 30 PRIMETIME PROGRAMS
(6pm-10pm)

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL
1	SANA'Y WALA NANG WAKAS	ABS-CBN
2	IT MIGHT BE YOU	ABS-CBN
3	BASTA'T KASAMA KITA	ABS-CBN
4	TE AMO: MAGING SINO KA MAN	GMA 7
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10	EXTRA CHALLENGE	GMA 7
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12	WANSAPANATAYM	ABS-CBN
13	MAGANDANG GABI BAYAN	ABS-CBN
14	TWIN HEARTS	GMA 7
15	MAGPAKAILANMAN	GMA 7
16	MAALAALA MO KAYA	ABS-CBN
17	K I	GMA
18	NARITO ANG PUSO KO	GMA 7
19	FRONTPAGE ULAT NI MEL TIANGCO	GMA 7
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22	IDOL KO SI KAP	GMA 7
23	SUNDAY NIGHT BOX OFFICE	GMA 7
24	BUBBLE GANG	GMA 7
25	HOME ALONG DA AIRPORT	ABS-CBN
26	NUTS ENTERTAINMENT	GMA 7
27	VICTIM	ABS-CBN
28	STAR IN A MILLION	ABS-CBN
29	WHATTAMEN	ABS-CBN
30	SEARCH FOR A STAR	GMA 7

9 OUT OF TOP 15 NEWS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL
1	IMBESTIGADOR	GMA 7
2	TV PATROL	ABS-CBN
3	MAGANDANG GABI BAYAN	ABS-CBN
4	FRONTPAGE ULAT NI MEL TIANGCO	GMA 7
5	SAKSI	GMA 7
6	BIO-DATA	GMA 7
7	EMERGENCY	GMA 7
8	INSIDER	ABS-CBN
9	JESSICA SOHO REPORTS	GMA 7
10	PRIVATE I	ABS-CBN
11	I-WITNESS	GMA 7
12	DEBATE WITH MARE AT PARE	GMA 7
13	SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT	ABS-CBN
14	GMA FLASH REPORT SPECIAL EDITION	GMA 7
15	THE CORRESPONDENTS	ABS-CBN

Nielsen Media

Mega Manila, January 1-31, 2004

18 OUT OF TOP 30 PROGRAMS OVERALL
Total Day (6am-12mn)

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL
1	ENDLESS LOVE II	GMA 7
2	STARSTRUCK	GMA 7
3	IT MIGHT BE YOU	ABS-CBN
4	WANSAPANATAYM	ABS-CBN
5	BASTA'T KASAMA KITA	ABS-CBN
6	SANA'Y WALA NANG WAKAS	ABS-CBN
7	IMBESTIGADOR	GMA 7
8	MAGPAKAILANMAN	GMA 7
9	TWIN HEARTS	GMA 7
10	STAR CINEMA PRESENTS	ABS-CBN
11	TV PATROL	ABS-CBN
12	NUTS ENTERTAINMENT	GMA 7
13	EXTRA CHALLENGE	GMA 7
14	NEXT LEVEL NA GKNB?	ABS-CBN
15	NARITO ANG PUSO KO	GMA 7
16	GHOST FIGHTER	GMA 7
17	MAGANDANG GABI...BAYAN	ABS-CBN
18	BUBBLE GANG	GMA 7
19	DADDY DI DO DU	GMA 7
20	EAT BULAGA	GMA 7
21	ALL TOGETHER NOW	GMA 7
22	FRONTPAGE ULAT NI MEL TIANGCO	GMA 7
23	DAISY SIETE	GMA 7
24	MAALAALA MO KAYA	ABS-CBN
25	IDOL KO SI KAP	GMA 7
26	K I	GMA 7
27	LAGOT KA...ISUSUMBONG KITA	GMA 7
28	VICTIM	ABS-CBN
29	OK FINE WHATEVER!	ABS-CBN
30	HOME ALONG DA AIRPORT	ABS-CBN

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(6am-6pm)

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5	DRAGON BALL Z	GMA 7
6	STARTALK	GMA 7
7	THE BUZZ	ABS-CBN
8	WALANG HANGGAN	GMA 7
9	S.O.P.	GMA 7
10	METEOR GARDEN II REWIND	ABS-CBN
11	DOLPHIN BAY	GMA 7
12	GATA SALVAJE	ABS-CBN
13	ASAP MANIA	ABS-CBN
14	WISH KO LANG	GMA 7
15	MASAYANG TANGHALI BAYAN	ABS-CBN

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22	IDOL KO SI KAP	GMA 7
23	K I	GMA 7
24	LAGOT KA... ISUSUMBONG KITA	GMA 7
25	VICTIM	ABS-CBN
26	OK FINE WHATEVER	ABS-CBN
27	HOME ALONG DA AIRPORT	ABS-CBN
28	BIDA SI MISTER, BIDA SI MISIS	ABS-CBN
29	WHATTAMEN	ABS-CBN
30	KAKABAKABA ADVENTURES	GMA 7

9 OUT OF TOP 15 NEWS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS

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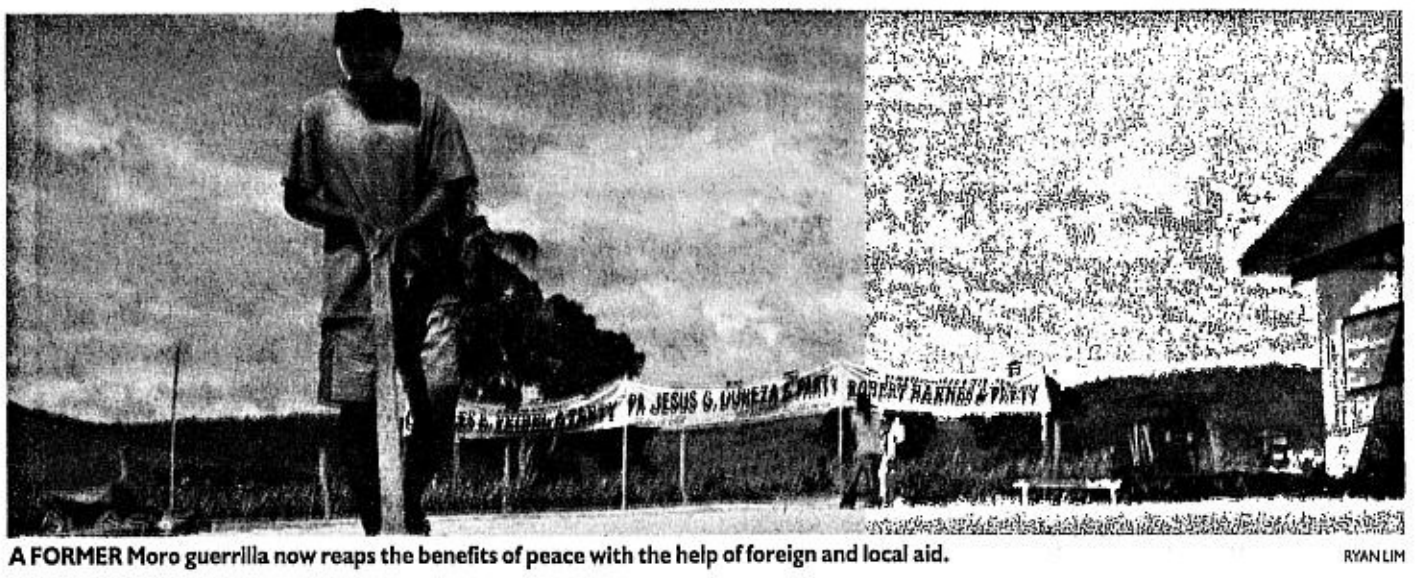
6	EMERGENCY	GMA 7
7	BIO-DATA	GMA 7
8	JESSICA SOHO REPORTS	GMA 7
9	INSIDER	ABS-CBN
10	I-WITNESS	GMA 7
11	GMA FLASH REPORT SPECIAL	GMA 7
12	PRIVATE I.	ABS-CBN
13	DEBATE WITH MARE AT PARE	GMA 7
14	THE CORRESPONDENTS	ABS-CBN
15	PIPOL	ABS-CBN

Maraming, maraming salamat po, mga KAPUSO!

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba



A FORMER Moro guerrilla now reaps the benefits of peace with the help of foreign and local aid. RYAN LIM

Combatants give up guns for farm tools

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Wao, Lanao del Sur

FOR SIX years, the women of Barangay Pilintangan, a village inhabited by former Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) combatants, had been drying their corn kernels using "trapal" (rain curtain).

The problem with drying the corn over trapal is that the process could actually last for at least a week making the corn kernels eventually rot, pulling down the market value of the product to as low as P5 per kilogram.

But now farmers here, especially those who are members of the Wao MNLF Women's Multi-Purpose Cooperative, are starting to feel a change.

This is because of a grains warehouse and solar drier constructed for the 150-member cooperative that is being run by women whose husbands are MNLF members.

Hadja Omaima Saripada, founder and chairperson of the cooperative, said the project built for them by the Growth for Equity in Mindanao (GEM) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has helped them a lot.

The cooperative just harvested corn and they are now using the solar dryer. Saripada said within two to three days, their grains will dry up and will be ready for hauling to Cagayan de Oro City. The MNLF women are expecting that their efforts in planting corn will be compensated, at least, with an expected P10 per kilogram buying price.

The village of Pilintangan is located just four kilometers from the Wao municipal center. It is one of the barangays of Wao that is predominantly populated by Muslims.

The cooperative, founded by Saripada in 1997, a year after the government entered into a peace agreement with the MNLF, covers at least 230 hectares of land. Farmers have an average yield of four tons per harvest per hectare of land in at least two croppings a year.

In the past, due to lack of a solar drier and storage area, the cooperative members were forced to sell undried or poorly dried grains at very low prices.

The warehouse is designed to store 36 metric tons of grain or 720 sacks of corn. A member of the cooperative said that for every kilo of corn dried in the facility, the cooperative gets 25 centavos.

A post-harvest facility is also about to be given by the USAID through the Livelihood Enhancement and Peace (LEAP) Program to the Wao MNLF Ex-Combatant Multi-Purpose Cooperative at the Sitio Magampong Park Area.

The grantee includes members of 70 former MNLF members who have undergone training from the LEAP. Currently, the cooperative farms more than 140 hectares of corn with an average yield of four tons per cropping cycle.

The GEM project also provided the cooperative with a grains warehouse and solar drier package under the community infrastructure program component in its bid to complement the USAID assistance.

Robert Barnes, USAID economic advisor, said the projects in Pilintangan and Sitio Magampong were just two of the 800 small-scale infrastructure and post-harvest facility projects that the USAID will provide for conflict areas in Mindanao in the next five years.

"The people are actually changing the face of Mindanao. We are pleased to help those who are helping themselves and those who are committed to help themselves ... those who are committed to peace," he added.

For Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) areas, Barnes said, the US government is prepared to extend assistance but only after the final peace agreement is signed between the rebel group and the Philippine government.

"We don't have any formal programs focused on the MILF now though the US government said that we are quite prepared to make our assistance efforts available to the MILF upon the conclusion of the final peace agreement with the MILF and the government. And that stands," he said.

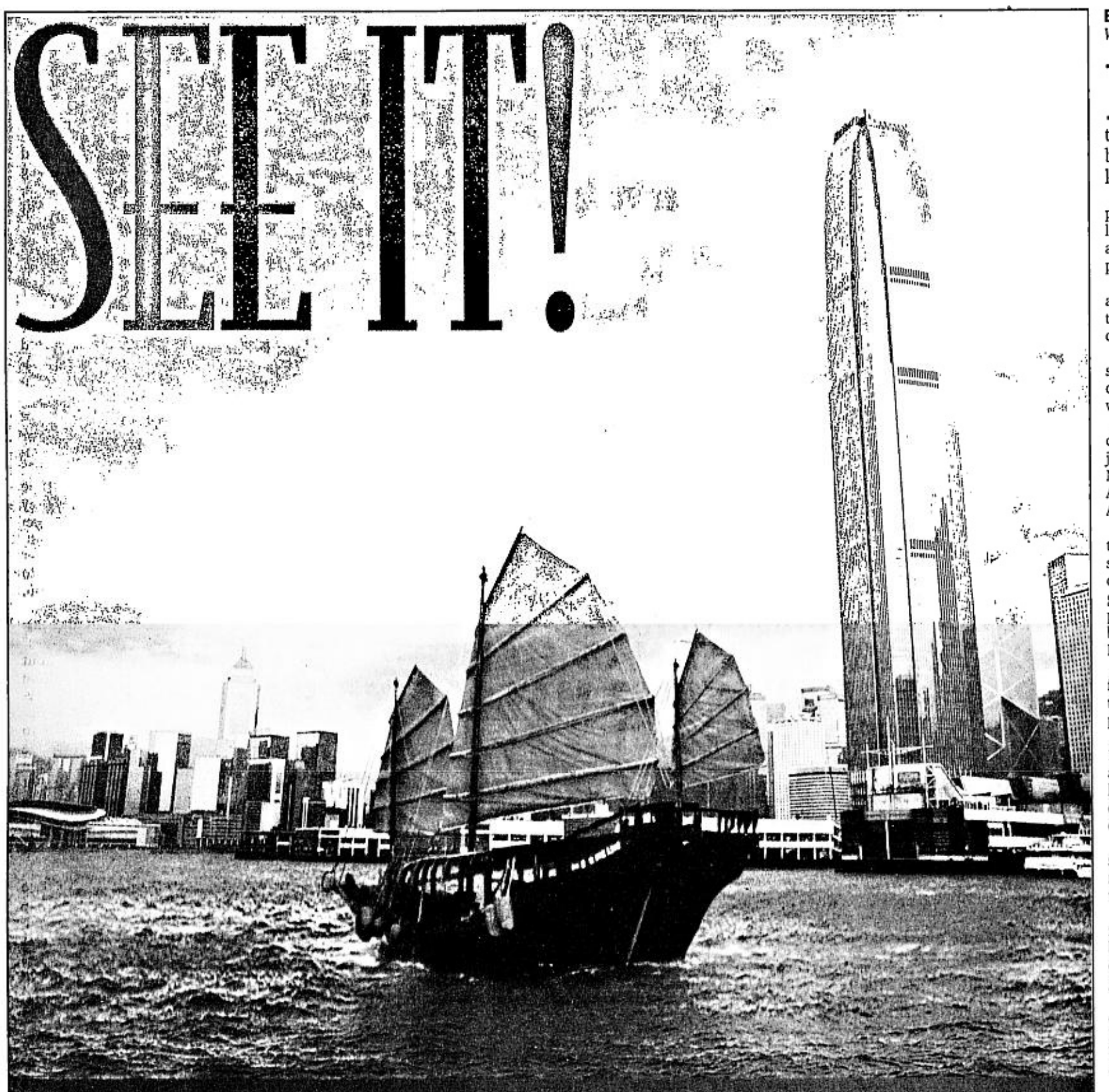
He also stressed that the US government can have programs implemented in MILF areas a month after a peace agreement is reached.

Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza urged leaders of former MNLF combatants to help the government in its efforts with the MILF by convincing them to follow what the MNLF did.

"If we can only do that, I'm sure there can be progress in Mindanao," he said.

Dureza showed his admiration to the MNLF by calling them "combatants for peace from being combatants of war."

SEE IT!



Hong Kong sizzles this February and March

Feel the heat as Hong Kong sizzles with a fiery mix of shopping and leisure activities from February to March 2004. Experience exciting cultural activities like the Spring Lantern Display, Hong Kong Arts Festival, the Hong Kong Flower Show and the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens 2004 Rugby Tournament. It's all here in Hong Kong-your hottest ticket to adventure.

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- Spring Lantern Display in Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza (17 Jan - 22 Feb)
  Feast your eyes on the glow of shiny lanterns showcasing superb Chinese paper craft and artistry.
- 2004 Hong Kong Arts Festival (3 Feb - 7 Mar)
  Be entertained as the cultural heavyweights of Asia and the world meet in a showcase of music, theatre, and dance.
- Dionne Warwick - The Platinum Concert (10 Feb)
- Disney on Ice - Beauty and the Beast (13-15 Feb & 17- 22 Feb)
  Relive the romance and magic of this timeless Disney classic on ice.
- Manna Dance 10th Anniversary Performance (20-21 Feb) Feel the passion of intense emotion as the Manna Dance troupe display their unique dance styles.
- HKPO Sandy x Anthony Live Concert (4-6 Mar)
- David Bowie Reality Tour (14 Mar)
- Hong Kong Flower Show 2004 (5-14 Mar)
  Behold a dazzling display of plants and blooms from all over the world.
- Hong Kong Sevens 2004 Rugby Tournament (26-28 Mar)
  Feel rugby fever as the premier leg of the International Rugby Board's World Sevens Series kicks off in Hong Kong.

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Dong Puno Live: Scripted for Noli?

By Norman Bordadora and Marinel Cruz

A STUDENT leader yesterday urged the Commission on Elections to investigate ABS-CBN for allegedly allowing the use of its facilities, shows and news programs to campaign for vice presidential candidate Sen. Noli de Castro, a talent of the television network.

Earl Mendez, president of the Filipino Democratic Students Union, said that during the show "Dong Puno Live" aired on Feb. 5, ABS-CBN staff reportedly screened out "unflattering questions" from the outdoor audience when the show was broadcast live from the university belt in Manila.

"What ABS-CBN did was not journalism when it filtered questions against De Castro so they could project him sweet-smelling as a flower," Mendez said.

Mendez, who was at Mendiola, Manila, for the live show, said he personally witnessed how the network staff allowed only supporters of the senator to pose questions and air reactions.

"We, the youth, went to the show to ask Noli (if it's true) that he received P750 million as payment to be GMA's running mate, and (if it's true) that he uses his 'Magandang Gabi Bayan' program to extort and enrich himself," Mendez, a student at the Eulogio Amang Rodiriguez Institute of Science and Technology, said.

The student said they were only allowed to ask Noli why he has been defending the highly excessive PPA charge being levied on electric consumers by Meralco, a sister company of ABS-CBN owned by the Lopez family, and only after Mendez threatened "to expose the scripted show."

Asked to air its side, ABS-CBN assured its audience that all its news and public affairs programs comply with the law.

"The network adheres to provisions of the law. If there's a party who thinks otherwise, we are ready to submit ourselves to the proper body, which is the Comelec," said Maloli Manalastas, ABS-CBN vice president for government, corporate affairs and public relations, in a telephone interview on Saturday.

"As far as 'Dong Puno Live' is concerned, (the show has) provided a fair, objective and balanced programing and would continue doing so," she added.

Loren: Me a security threat?

From page A1

Senate hearing," she told the INQUIRER during the taping of her campaign commercial with movie actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Legarda, who holds a masters degree in national security administration, also scored Corpus for his propensity to use foul language, especially to a woman, when he should be "an officer and a gentleman."

The youngest in her class, Legarda emerged as topnotcher of Batch 27 and was awarded two gold medals: one for academic excellence and the other for best thesis.

Legarda said her friendship with Communist Party of the Philippines chair Jose Ma. Sison was public, as well as with other Muslim secessionist leaders, being a former TV broadcaster.

In the Senate hearing, Corpus apologized for using foul language against Legarda whom he earlier called a "political prostitute."

But Legarda said that Corpus did not personally apologize to her so there was nothing to accept. *"Ipagdarasal ko na lang siya,"* she said. (I'll just pray for him).

Corpus said Legarda was "sharing her bed with the extreme Right and the extreme Left."

Twisted

He said Legarda was at the Jan. 9 meeting of Council on Philippine Affairs secretary general Pastor "Boy" Saycon and members of the "Kawal Pilipino," a group of disgruntled junior military officers, at the Manila Polo Club.

But Legarda said the so-called meeting with Saycon and members of Kawal was twisted by Corpus.

She said that while she met with Saycon, the alleged mastermind of the plot, in Makati, the political meeting was covered by the media and attended by retired generals supporting Poe's candidacy.

Legarda also said she was not aware of the presence of Kawal members in the meeting.

In the case of Sison, she denied asking him to designate a spokesman for her in the communist movement.

She said she only distributed to the media Sison's recent letter to her and even gave a copy to Corpus. "I am surprised that he is using this against me as if I'm being secretive about it," she said.

Legarda noted that peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front will resume in Norway on Feb. 10.

"The government is talking to the communists. I don't see any reason why I should not. We need leaders that can unify the nation, not divide it," she stressed.

Unruly behavior

Still, Legarda believed that a mere reprimand of Corpus by the Armed Forces Chief of Staff was a light penalty for his unruly behavior.

"He should reveal to the public the unseen hands behind him. His commander-in-chief should make him responsible for his false allegations," she said.

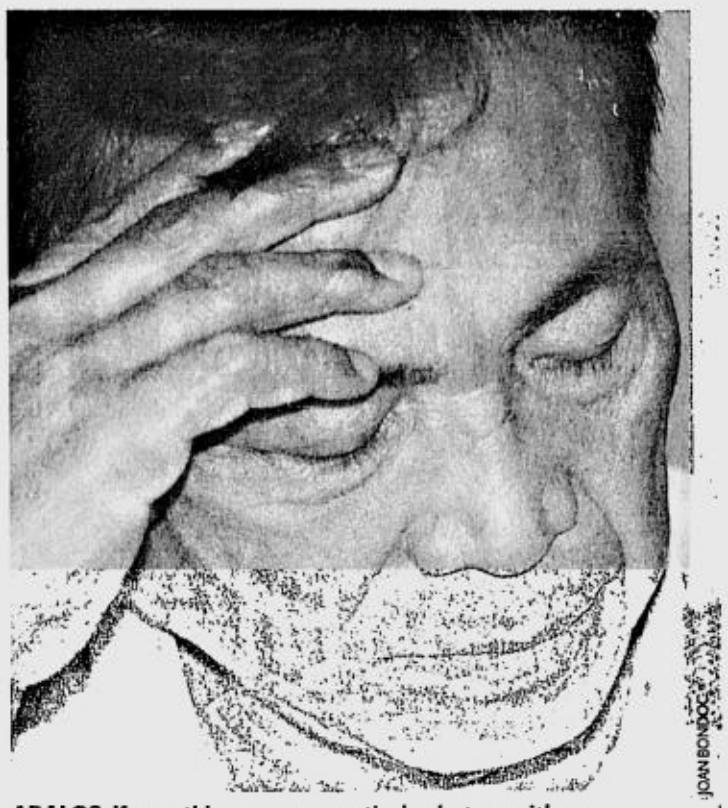
Legarda said she was not surprised why Corpus, who was no longer in charge of military intelligence, was still spying on her.

"Because he has lost his credibility ever since I exposed his witness Ador Mawanay to be fake. That is why he is doing this to me," she said.

But Malacañang said it would not order an investigation of Legarda.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said there was no need for Malacañang to investigate because the charges were aired by Corpus before a Senate hearing.

"So we will leave it to the Senate, anyway there was an opportunity for others to ask General Corpus," Bunye said in an RMN interview. *With a report by Juliet Labog-Javellana*



JOAN BONDOC

ABALOS: If something goes wrong, the buck stops with me.

Abalos won't quit

From page A1

the one in charge of Phase 2 of the Comelec modernization program, of which the acquisition of the counting machines is a part.

The modernization program is headed by Commissioner Resurreccion Borra.

"When I put a man in charge, I don't interfere in the details of the program..." Abalos said. "But if something goes wrong, the buck stops with me."

Low opinion

Abalos told reporters Friday morning that there had always been a low public opinion of the Comelec even before his term.

And yet, he said, apparently to emphasize that the commission was doing its job, this was the first time that it was able to uncover 110,000 multiple registrants in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Yesterday, he reiterated that before he became chair of the poll body, the term "Comelected" was being bandied about, to mean that candidates won their seats by virtue of a decision of the commission, and not because of an election.

He said it was probable that he was tainted by this perception.

But the SWS survey results showed that despite the majority distrust in Abalos, voters actually had a higher regard of the Comelec, with 61 percent saying they had "much trust" and only 16 percent saying they had "little trust" in it, for a net trust rating of 45 percent.

The SWS said this was the highest trust rating obtained by the Comelec since 1991.

Institutional credibility

Like most voters, President Macapagal-Arroyo believes in the credibility of the Comelec as an institution to conduct honest and orderly elections in May, according to her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

"The President is for a clean, honest and peaceful election, and whatever is necessary [to achieve that] should be done by the Comelec. Well, she also believes in the institutional credibility of the Comelec," Bunye said in an RMN interview when asked about the majority of voters distrusting Abalos.

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From page A1

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Dong Puno Live: Scripted for Noli?

By Norman Bordadora and Marinel Cruz

A STUDENT leader yesterday urged the Commission on Elections to investigate ABS-CBN for allegedly allowing the use of its facilities, shows and news programs to campaign for vice presidential candidate Sen. Noli de Castro, a talent of the television network.

Earl Mendez, president of the Filipino Democratic Students Union, said that during the show "Dong Puno Live" aired on Feb. 5, ABS-CBN staff reportedly screened out "unflattering questions" from the outdoor audience when the show was broadcast live from the university belt in Manila.

"What ABS-CBN did was not journalism when it filtered questions against De Castro so they could project him sweet-smelling as a flower," Mendez said.

Mendez, who was at Mendiola, Manila, for the live show, said he personally witnessed how the network staff allowed only supporters of the senator to pose questions and air reactions.

"We, the youth, went to the show to ask Noli (if it's true) that he received P750 million as payment to be GMA's running mate, and (if it's true) that he uses his 'Magandang Gabi Bayan' program to extort and enrich himself," Mendez, a student at the Eulogio Amang Rodiriguez Institute of Science and Technology, said.

The student said they were only allowed to ask Noli why he has been defending the highly excessive PPA charge being levied on electric consumers by Meralco, a sister company of ABS-CBN owned by the Lopez family, and only after Mendez threatened "to expose the scripted show."

Asked to air its side, ABS-CBN assured its audience that all its news and public affairs programs comply with the law.

"The network adheres to provisions of the law. If there's a party who thinks otherwise, we are ready to submit ourselves to the proper body, which is the Comelec," said Maloli Manalastas, ABS-CBN vice president for government, corporate affairs and public relations, in a telephone interview on Saturday.

"As far as 'Dong Puno Live' is concerned, (the show has) provided a fair, objective and balanced programing and would continue doing so," she added.

Loren: Me a security threat?

From page A1

Senate hearing," she told the INQUIRER during the taping of her campaign commercial with movie actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Legarda, who holds a masters degree in national security administration, also scored Corpus for his propensity to use foul language, especially to a woman, when he should be "an officer and a gentleman."

The youngest in her class, Legarda emerged as topnotcher of Batch 27 and was awarded two gold medals: one for academic excellence and the other for best thesis.

Legarda said her friendship with Communist Party of the Philippines chair Jose Ma. Sison was public, as well as with other Muslim secessionist leaders, being a former TV broadcaster.

In the Senate hearing, Corpus apologized for using foul language against Legarda whom he earlier called a "political prostitute."

But Legarda said that Corpus did not personally apologize to her so there was nothing to accept. *"Ipagdarasal ko na lang siya,"* she said. (I'll just pray for him).

Corpus said Legarda was "sharing her bed with the extreme Right and the extreme Left."

Twisted

He said Legarda was at the Jan. 9 meeting of Council on Philippine Affairs secretary general Pastor "Boy" Saycon and members of the "Kawal Pilipino," a group of disgruntled junior military officers, at the Manila Polo Club.

But Legarda said the so-called meeting with Saycon and members of Kawal was twisted by Corpus.

She said that while she met with Saycon, the alleged mastermind of the plot, in Makati, the political meeting was covered by the media and attended by retired generals supporting Poe's candidacy.

Legarda also said she was not aware of the presence of Kawal members in the meeting.

In the case of Sison, she denied asking him to designate a spokesman for her in the communist movement.

She said she only distributed to the media Sison's recent letter to her and even gave a copy to Corpus. "I am surprised that he is using this against me as if I'm being secretive about it," she said.

Legarda noted that peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front will resume in Norway on Feb. 10.

"The government is talking to the communists. I don't see any reason why I should not. We need leaders that can unify the nation, not divide it," she stressed.

Unruly behavior

Still, Legarda believed that a mere reprimand of Corpus by the Armed Forces Chief of Staff was a light penalty for his unruly behavior.

"He should reveal to the public the unseen hands behind him. His commander-in-chief should make him responsible for his false allegations," she said.

Legarda said she was not surprised why Corpus, who was no longer in charge of military intelligence, was still spying on her.

"Because he has lost his credibility ever since I exposed his witness Ador Mawanay to be fake. That is why he is doing this to me," she said.

But Malacañang said it would not order an investigation of Legarda.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said there was no need for Malacañang to investigate because the charges were aired by Corpus before a Senate hearing.

"So we will leave it to the Senate, anyway there was an opportunity for others to ask General Corpus," Bunye said in an RMN interview. *With a report by Juliet Labog-Javellana*

JOHN BONOCAN

ABALOS: If something goes wrong, the buck stops with me.

Abalos won't quit

From page A1

the one in charge of Phase 2 of the Comelec modernization program, of which the acquisition of the counting machines is a part.

The modernization program is headed by Commissioner Resurreccion Borra.

"When I put a man in charge, I don't interfere in the details of the program..." Abalos said. "But if something goes wrong, the buck stops with me."

Low opinion

Abalos told reporters Friday morning that there had always been a low public opinion of the Comelec even before his term.

And yet, he said, apparently to emphasize that the commission was doing its job, this was the first time that it was able to uncover 110,000 multiple registrants in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Yesterday, he reiterated that before he became chair of the poll body, the term "Comelected" was being bandied about, to mean that candidates won their seats by virtue of a decision of the commission, and not because of an election.

He said it was probable that he was tainted by this perception.

But the SWS survey results showed that despite the majority distrust in Abalos, voters actually had a higher regard of the Comelec, with 61 percent saying they had "much trust" and only 16 percent saying they had "little trust" in it, for a net trust rating of 45 percent.

The SWS said this was the highest trust rating obtained by the Comelec since 1991.

Institutional credibility

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Disabled sector stands to be heard

By Luige del Puerto

DON'T forget us.

The disabled sector on Friday called on all the candidates in the May elections to include their interests in their platforms.

"There are 8 million persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the country," said Richard Arceno, president of Akapin or Alyansa ng May Kapansanang Pinoy, a party-list group running in next May's polls. "If we unite, we can make a candidate win in the Senate, or (maybe) even the presidency."

As the national sectoral party for the disabled, Akapin aims to fully integrate PWDs into mainstream society and afford them with rehabilitation and equal opportunities for self-reliance and development.

During a forum at the Club Filipino in San Juan, Arceno said that PWDs are not represented in Congress, despite their large number.

MEMBERS of Akapin (Alyansa ng may Kapansanang Pinoy) attend the forum on Political Advocacy of Persons with Disability, held at the Club Filipino in San Juan. JOAN BONDOC

The least of their concerns

Their problems are also the least of politicians' concerns, he added.

"Candidates must be sensitive," Arceno said. "One day, they may be disabled too, either through aging or illness."

So he sent out an appeal to all the candidates: "Include us in your platforms."

"We are voters too and we have brothers and sisters who are voters as well," he said.

Arceno said their vote is their last recourse to improve their plight.

Former Sen. Ernesto "Boy" Herrera, blind lawyer Atty. Nicanor Gatmaytan Jr., and sports commissioner Mike Barrera attended the forum.

Just props

Herrera and Gatmaytan are both running for senator, the former under the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino and the latter under Alyansa ng Pag-asa.

Foremost among the disabled sector's concerns are the inaccessibility of buildings, notably government buildings, the lack of PWD-friendly transportation systems, and discrimination in the employment sector.

Arceno said RA 7277, the Magna Carta for PWDs, remains a "prop" to this day.

"Many are still insensitive to the needs of the sector," he said.

No access to education

Citing data from the education department, Arceno said that out of three million children with disabilities, only two percent have access to education.

In the labor sector, only 10 percent of some 150,000 PWDs who are qualified for employment actually have jobs.

"We don't want pity, but the chance to help ourselves and our country," he said.

According to the National Council for Welfare of Disabled Persons, PWDs constitue 10 percent of the population. The National Statistics Office placed the number at one percent.

The agency last conducted a nationwide census in 1995.

One percent of budget

Gatmaytan said under a Roco administration, the disabled sector and the elderly would get its just share in the national budget.

"If Roco wins, the disabled sector is assured of one percent of the annual budget," the blind lawyer said.

Herrera, a polio victim, said he would push for employment and educational programs for the disabled sector.

No more cockfights, cops told

By Leila Salaverria

HOLD your bets.

Members of the Western Police District will not be able to bet on their favorite fighting cocks after a Feb. 4 directive from senior police officials directed the men to steer clear of cockpits, among other places.

The memo, issued by WPD operations and planning head Chief Insp. Florencio Ortilla, also reminded the policemen to refrain from going to nightclubs and girlie bars, except in cases where they are required to be present in the said establishments.

Policemen who would violate the directives would be immediately arrested and slapped with grave misconduct charges. If, on the other hand, the superior of an erring policeman refused to mete out the penalties, the official himself would be charged with conduct unbecoming an officer, or as accessory to the incident.

And to ensure that policemen would toe the line, Ortilla ordered all WPD station commanders, as well as the commanders of support units, to organize teams to spy on their fellow lawmen.

The directive was issued to prevent policemen from initiating or taking part in untoward incidents that might taint the image of policemen.

In fact, Ortilla said in the memo that when the violations of the said directives results in a shooting incident, the immediate superior of the erring policemen as well as the police chief in the area would be relieved from their posts immediately.

Lapu-Lapu: Larger than life

From page A24

ed, its gaze locked at another hero that stands about 500 meters away facing Manila Bay—Dr. Jose Rizal.

"Lapu-Lapu was the first Malay who repelled foreign invaders," former Tourism Sec. Richard Gordon said during an interview.

We were not victims

"He's not a killer, he's a victor. The people who come here would learn that we had won, that we were not victims," Gordon said.

Gordon on Thursday night, led the inauguration of the statue at the Rizal Park before a crowd of Koreans, war veterans and officials of Lapu-Lapu City in Cebu.

Called the "Statue of the Sentinel of Freedom," the image was a gift from the Korean Freedom League, in honor of Filipino soldiers who fought in the Korean War 50 years ago.

Gordon, now a senatorial candidate under the administration party, sealed a P16-million deal with the Koreans to fund the making of the statue for the national park two years ago.

Monument moved

Flanked by the Corinthian buildings of the National Museum and the Department of Tourism, the 30-foot Lapu-Lapu statue was erected on a 10-foot platform at the park's Teodoro Valencia Circle, nestled between Taft Avenue and Maria Orosa Street.

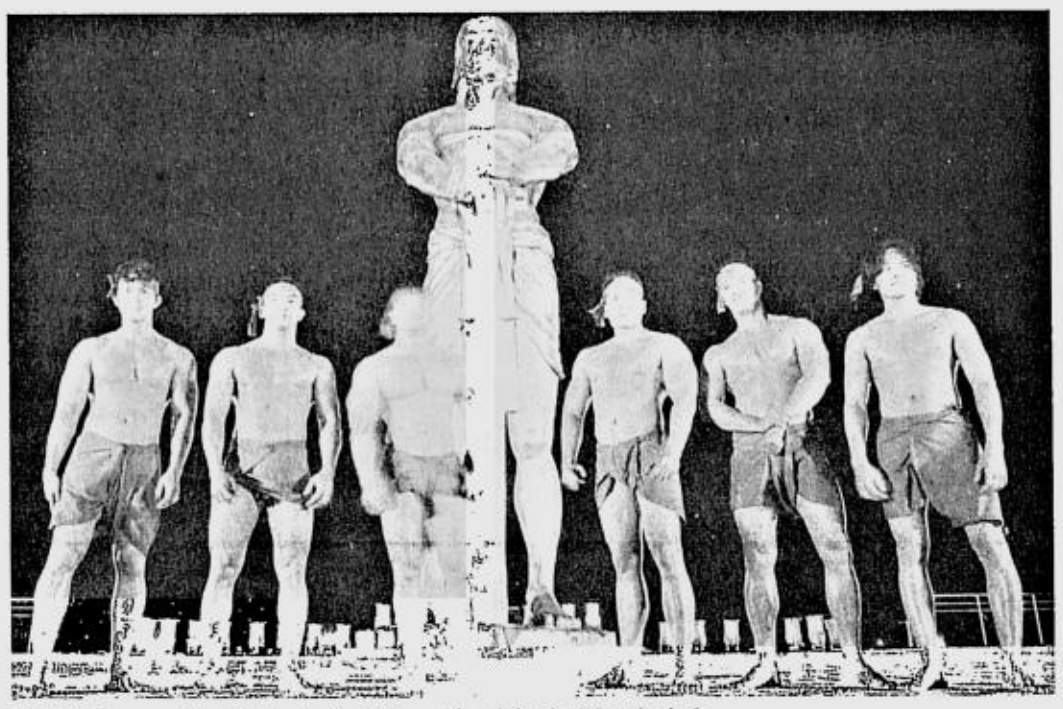
The unfinished P38-million Binhi ng Kalayaan monument, a donation from the National Centennial Commission in 1998, used to stand on the same spot. But it had to be moved to give way to the "Sentinel," according to DOT Undersecretary Armand Arreza.

Rooted in controversy

The National Historical Institute earlier had questioned the erection of Lapu-Lapu's monument at Rizal Park.

The 52-hectare park had been declared a historical site in 1995 in honor of the heroes who lost their lives in the park—then called Bagumbayan.

The NHI cited Presidential Decree 1505 which prohibits "any person to modify, alter, repair or destroy the original features of any national shrine, monument or landmark."



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By Luige del Puerto

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Take samples or face sanctions, DOH warns drug labs

By Blanche Rivera

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"They should not refuse because that's part of their functions," Lutero told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Friday.

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Lutero urged the screening centers to submit a complaint against the laboratory owners who refuse to take in the samples.

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Urine samples that test positive for drug use in the screening centers should be passed on to confirmatory laboratories that would corroborate the results.

Only five private laboratories have the equipment needed for such confirmatory tests. The Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation also have the equipment, but they could not afford the reagents to test all those submitted to private screening centers.

The DOH has recently purchased two machines, but these would be installed in April.

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Disabled sector stands to be heard

By Luige del Puerto

DON'T forget us.

The disabled sector on Friday called on all the candidates in the May elections to include their interests in their platforms.

"There are 8 million persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the country," said Richard Arceno, president of Akapin or Alyansa ng May Kapansanang Pinoy, a party-list group running in next May's polls. "If we unite, we can make a candidate win in the Senate, or (maybe) even the presidency."

As the national sectoral party for the disabled, Akapin aims to fully integrate PWDs into mainstream society and afford them with rehabilitation and equal opportunities for self-reliance and development.

During a forum at the Club Filipino in San Juan, Arceno said that PWDs are not represented in Congress, despite their large number.

MEMBERS of Akapin (Alyansa ng may Kapansanang Pinoy) attend the forum on Political Advocacy of Persons with Disability, held at the Club Filipino in San Juan. JOAN BONDOC

The least of their concerns

Their problems are also the least of politicians' concerns, he added.

"Candidates must be sensitive," Arceno said. "One day, they may be disabled too, either through aging or illness."

So he sent out an appeal to all the candidates: "Include us in your platforms."

"We are voters too and we have brothers and sisters who are voters as well," he said.

Arceno said their vote is their last recourse to improve their plight.

Former Sen. Ernesto "Boy" Herrera, blind lawyer Atty. Nicanor Gatmaytan Jr., and sports commissioner Mike Barrera attended the forum.

Just props

Herrera and Gatmaytan are both running for senator, the former under the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino and the latter under Alyansa ng Pag-asa.

Foremost among the disabled sector's concerns are the inaccessibility of buildings, notably government buildings, the lack of PWD-friendly transportation systems, and discrimination in the employment sector.

Arceno said RA 7277, the Magna Carta for PWDs, remains a "prop" to this day.

"Many are still insensitive to the needs of the sector," he said.

No access to education

Citing data from the education department, Arceno said that out of three million children with disabilities, only two percent have access to education.

In the labor sector, only 10 percent of some 150,000 PWDs who are qualified for employment actually have jobs.

"We don't want pity, but the chance to help ourselves and our country," he said.

According to the National Council for Welfare of Disabled Persons, PWDs constitue 10 percent of the population. The National Statistics Office placed the number at one percent.

The agency last conducted a nationwide census in 1995.

One percent of budget

Gatmaytan said under a Roco administration, the disabled sector and the elderly would get its just share in the national budget.

"If Roco wins, the disabled sector is assured of one percent of the annual budget," the blind lawyer said.

Herrera, a polio victim, said he would push for employment and educational programs for the disabled sector.

No more cockfights, cops told

By Leila Salaverria

HOLD your bets.

Members of the Western Police District will not be able to bet on their favorite fighting cocks after a Feb. 4 directive from senior police officials directed the men to steer clear of cockpits, among other places.

The memo, issued by WPD operations and planning head Chief Insp. Florencio Ortilla, also reminded the policemen to refrain from going to nightclubs and girlie bars, except in cases where they are required to be present in the said establishments.

Policemen who would violate the directives would be immediately arrested and slapped with grave misconduct charges. If, on the other hand, the superior of an erring policeman refused to mete out the penalties, the official himself would be charged with conduct unbecoming an officer, or as accessory to the incident.

And to ensure that policemen would toe the line, Ortilla ordered all WPD station commanders, as well as the commanders of support units, to organize teams to spy on their fellow lawmen.

The directive was issued to prevent policemen from initiating or taking part in untoward incidents that might taint the image of policemen.

In fact, Ortilla said in the memo that when the violations of the said directives results in a shooting incident, the immediate superior of the erring policemen as well as the police chief in the area would be relieved from their posts immediately.

Lapu-Lapu: Larger than life

From page A24

ed, its gaze locked at another hero that stands about 500 meters away facing Manila Bay—Dr. Jose Rizal.

"Lapu-Lapu was the first Malay who repelled foreign invaders," former Tourism Sec. Richard Gordon said during an interview.

We were not victims

"He's not a killer, he's a victor. The people who come here would learn that we had won, that we were not victims," Gordon said.

Gordon on Thursday night, led the inauguration of the statue at the Rizal Park before a crowd of Koreans, war veterans and officials of Lapu-Lapu City in Cebu.

Called the "Statue of the Sentinel of Freedom," the image was a gift from the Korean Freedom League, in honor of Filipino soldiers who fought in the Korean War 50 years ago.

Gordon, now a senatorial candidate under the administration party, sealed a P16-million deal with the Koreans to fund the making of the statue for the national park two years ago.

Monument moved

Flanked by the Corinthian buildings of the National Museum and the Department of Tourism, the 30-foot Lapu-Lapu statue was erected on a 10-foot platform at the park's Teodoro Valencia Circle, nestled between Taft Avenue and Maria Orosa Street.

The unfinished P38-million Binhi ng Kalayaan monument, a donation from the National Centennial Commission in 1998, used to stand on the same spot. But it had to be moved to give way to the "Sentinel," according to DOT Undersecretary Armand Arreza.

Rooted in controversy

The National Historical Institute earlier had questioned the erection of Lapu-Lapu's monument at Rizal Park.

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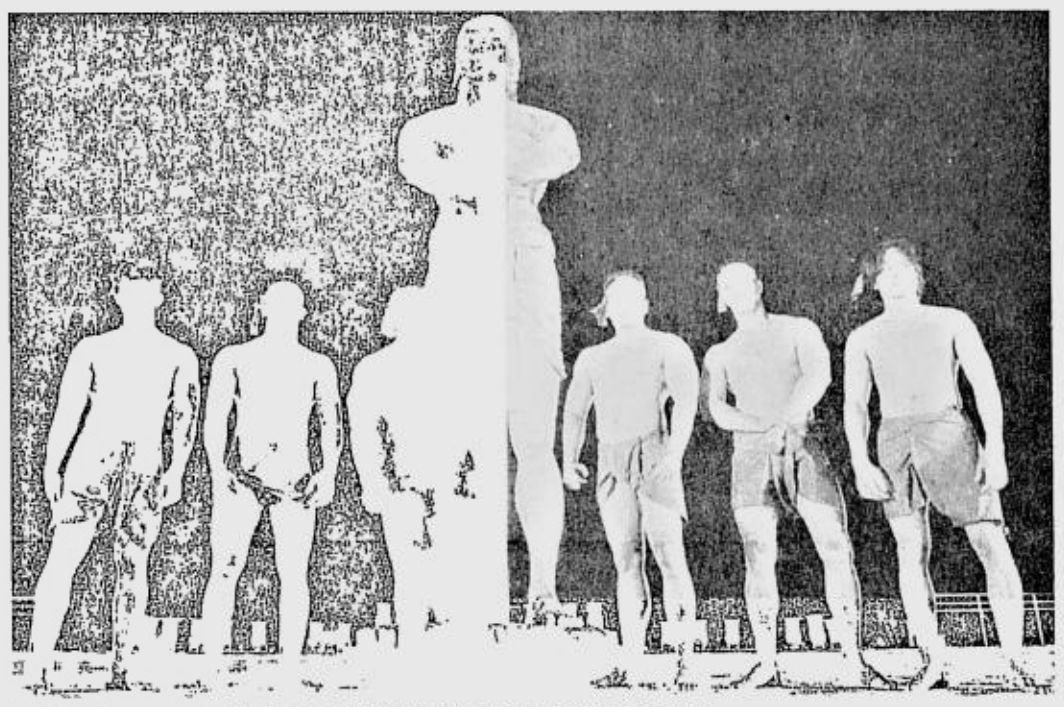

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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SUERTRES 7 1 2

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6/42 Luzon 3 12 14 23 28 34

Vis-Min 4 10 15 18 27 39

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Angat level continues to drop

Not enough rainfall to stave off water crisis, says DENR

By Volt Contreras

THERE is still not enough rain falling in the National Capital Region.

And according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the threat of a water crisis becomes more imminent as the water level at the Angat Dam continues to drop.

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It is ".15 meters lower" than the previous record taken 12 hours earlier, according to Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun.

"It's still not enough," Gozun said. "What we really need are heavy rains ... and for them to directly fall on Angat."

But the DENR chief remained confident that if the rate of decrease would remain steady and not get any worse, "we will not reach crisis levels because we are projecting more rains to come in May."

The weather bureau attributed the recent rains to the tail-end of a cold front affecting Northern Luzon, and confirmed that rainshowers did fall on the Angat Dam basin located in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Meanwhile, Gozun said the National Water Resource Board has already reduced to 80 percent the amount of water released from Angat for irrigation this month.

The NWRB has been gradually tightening the irrigation water supply for farmers since December last year, when it cut the normal supply to 95 percent. Last month, the irrigation supply was cut down to 90 percent.

Gozun explained that the farmers can make do with the reduced supply since they are already nearing the harvest period.

Farmers tending to some 23,000 hectares of farmland in Central Luzon draw their water from the Angat Dam.

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Lapu-Lapu: Larger than life

By Tarra Quismundo

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Crafted by renowned sculptor Juan Sajid Imao, the statue depicts Lapu-Lapu in all his masculine glory—the wholeness of the carved image broken only by a single piece of cloth tied around the waist.

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LAPU-LAPU/ A23

Police round up 100 suspects in Camanava drive

By Tina Santos

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Lawmen from various stations in the Caloocan, Malabon Navotas and Valenzuela (Camanava) had several arrest warrants which they would check against those who were rounded up in yesterday's drive. At press time, it was not known whether any of the warrants had been served.

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A similar drive was started last week in Caloocan's Dagat-dagatan area.

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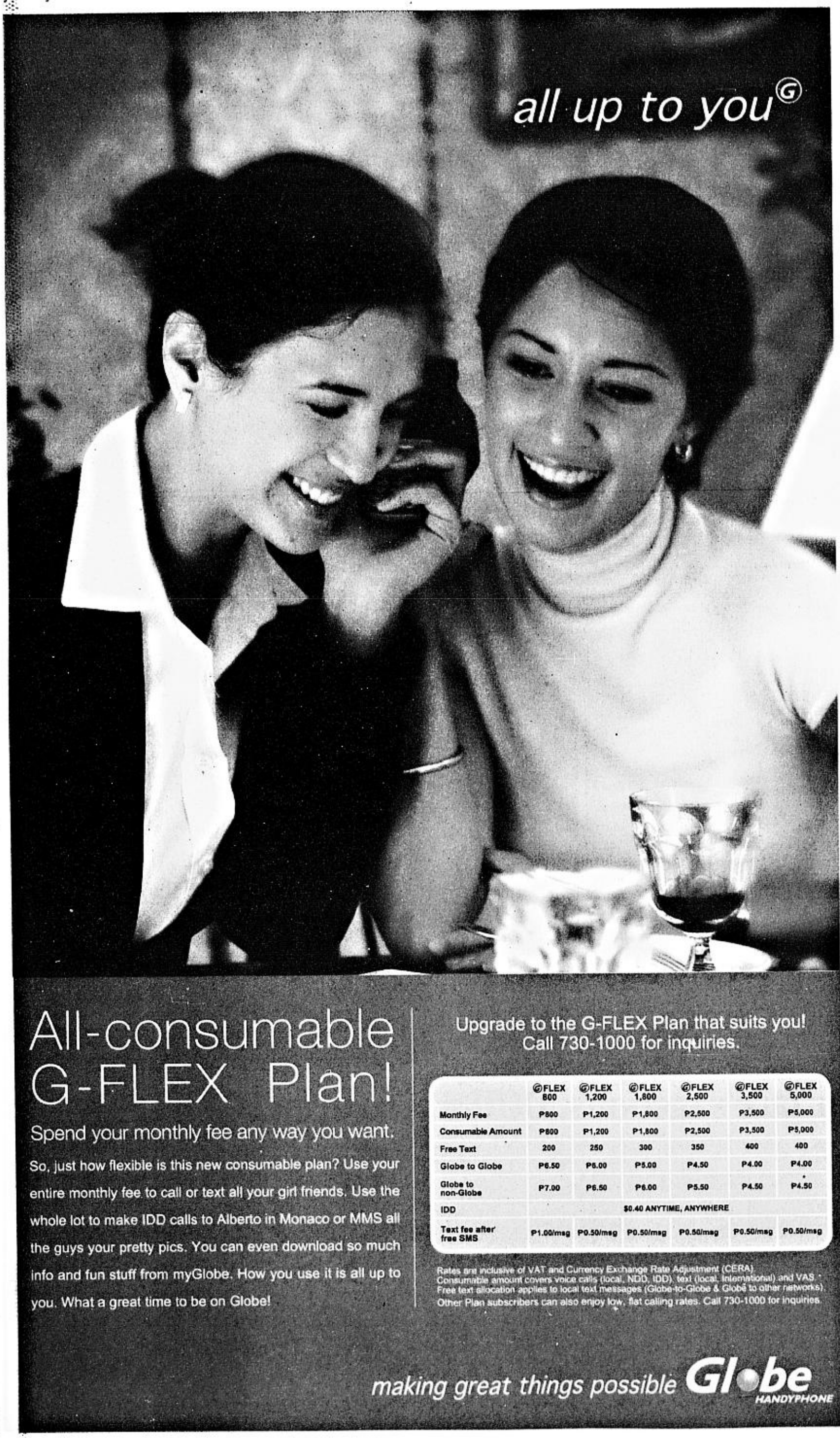
Franco said that the operations were conducted in line with Malacañang's directive to police officials to bring the war on drugs down to the barangay level.



	@FLEX 800	@FLEX 1,200	@FLEX 1,800	@FLEX 2,500	@FLEX 3,500	@FLEX 5,000
Monthly Fee	P800	P1,200	P1,800	P2,500	P3,500	P5,000
Consumable Amount	P800	P1,200	P1,800	P2,500	P3,500	P5,000
Free Text	200	250	300	350	400	400
Globe to Globe	P6.50	P6.00	P5.00	P4.50	P4.00	P4.00
Globe to non-Globe	P7.00	P6.50	P6.00	P5.50	P4.50	P4.50
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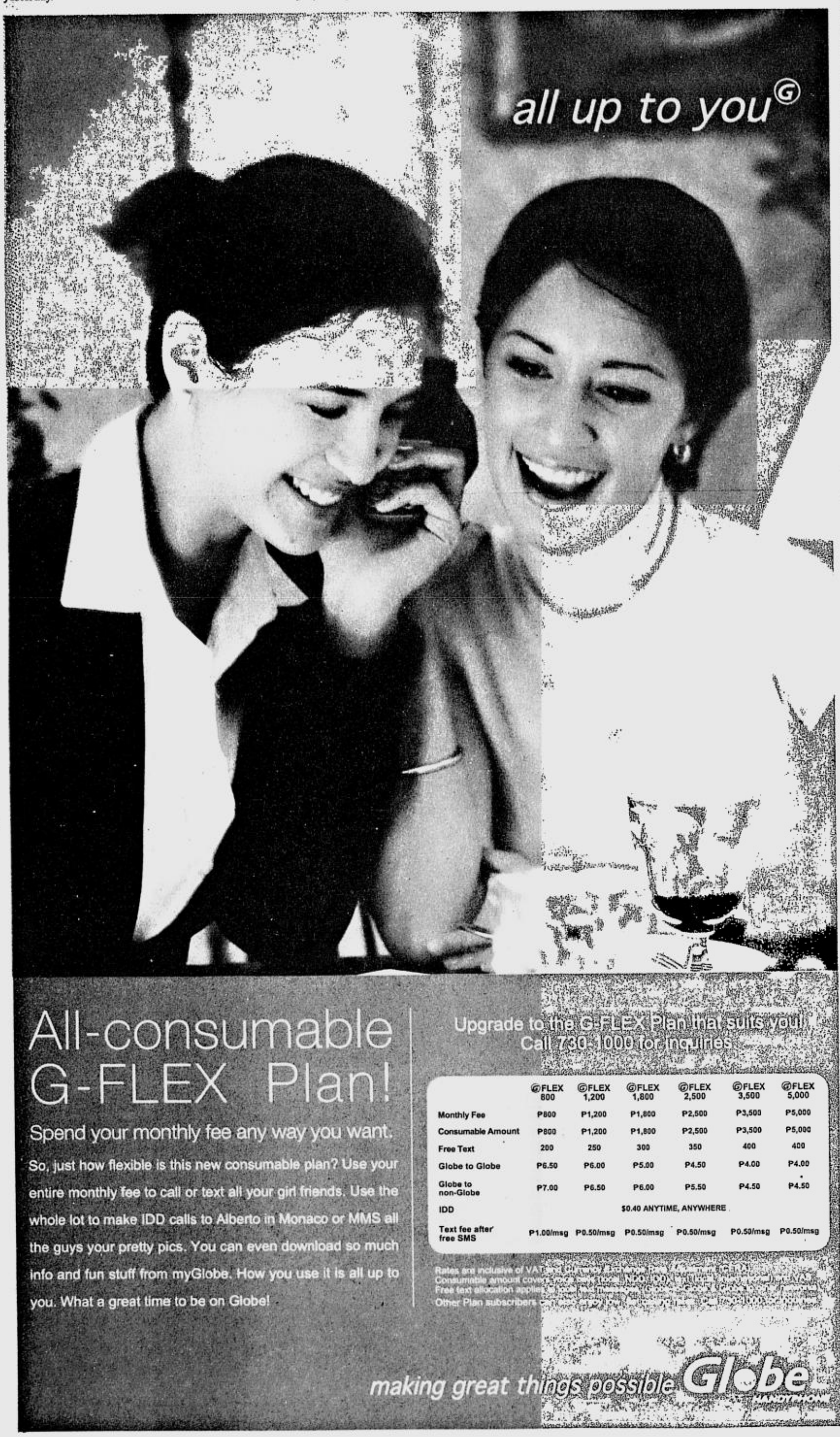

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Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: Celtics vs Sixers; 8 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports—Atlantic Division foes Boston and Philadelphia renew their rivalry.

Vintage NBA-George Mikan; 11 a.m.; Solar Sports—Learn more about the NBA's first great big man.

Hardwood Classics-Lakers vs Sixers, Game 6, 1980 Finals; 12 noon; Solar Sports—The game that showed why fans would call Ervin Johnson, "Magic!"

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

FASH players led by Simon (left) celebrate after beating Welcoat for the crown.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Filipinos bow to Chinese /A26

■ Record-ripping Els pulls away by 8 /A27

Fash foils Welcoat, captures PBL title

FASH Liquid Laundry Detergent leaned on a couple of three-pointers by Larry Fonacier in the last quarter to down Welcoat Paints, 61-55, yesterday and clinch the Philippine Basketball League Platinum Cup championship at the jampacked PhilSports Arena.

The Ateneo standout broke up the close, exciting, winner-take-all match with his first triple for a 52-47 Fash lead with 3 minutes left. Fonacier then made it 57-52 with his second three-point shot, time down to a minute and 20 seconds.

A drive by Allan Salangsang for 59-52 sealed the victory with 45 seconds to go for Fash, which secured its third franchise title and its second straight crown after ruling the PBL Unity Cup last July over Viva Mineral Water.

Seven championships

"Larry (Fonacier) hit the big three-pointers in the endgame. Even though he was struggling, I still had trust in him," said Fash coach Junel Baculi, who matched former Stag Pale Pilsen coach Alfrancis Chua as the winningest mentor in the league with seven championships.

Salangsang finished with a game-high 14 points in the low-scoring Game 5 with Peter June Simon adding 12 to emerge as the Finals Most Valuable Player after earlier winning the conference MVP plum.

It was Simon who gave Fash a new lease on life in Game 4 with a 28-point performance. The Liquid Power also won Game 2 in double overtime.

Jercules Tangkay, who was beaten by Simon for the conference MVP award, paced Welcoat with 13 points, but failed to buy a basket in the last seven minutes of play. James Yap added 12 for the Paint Masters.

Important goals

No team led by as many as four points until Fonacier delivered the most important goals of the match.

Welcoat, the runaway leader in the eliminations and in the semifinals, threatened for the last time at 55-59 on another triple by Ervin Sotto with 34 seconds left.

But Simon and Rich Alvarez put in a freethrow each while Yap and Tangkay missed successive three-point attempts.

It was a tremendous comeback for Fash, which had to win a series of games just to get into the semifinals behind Welcoat, Sunkist-UST and Blu Star.

Sweet victory

Paculi said the victory was all the more sweet because Fash was swept by Welcoat in their last meeting for the championship in 2002.

"The boys showed their desire and heart," Baculi added.

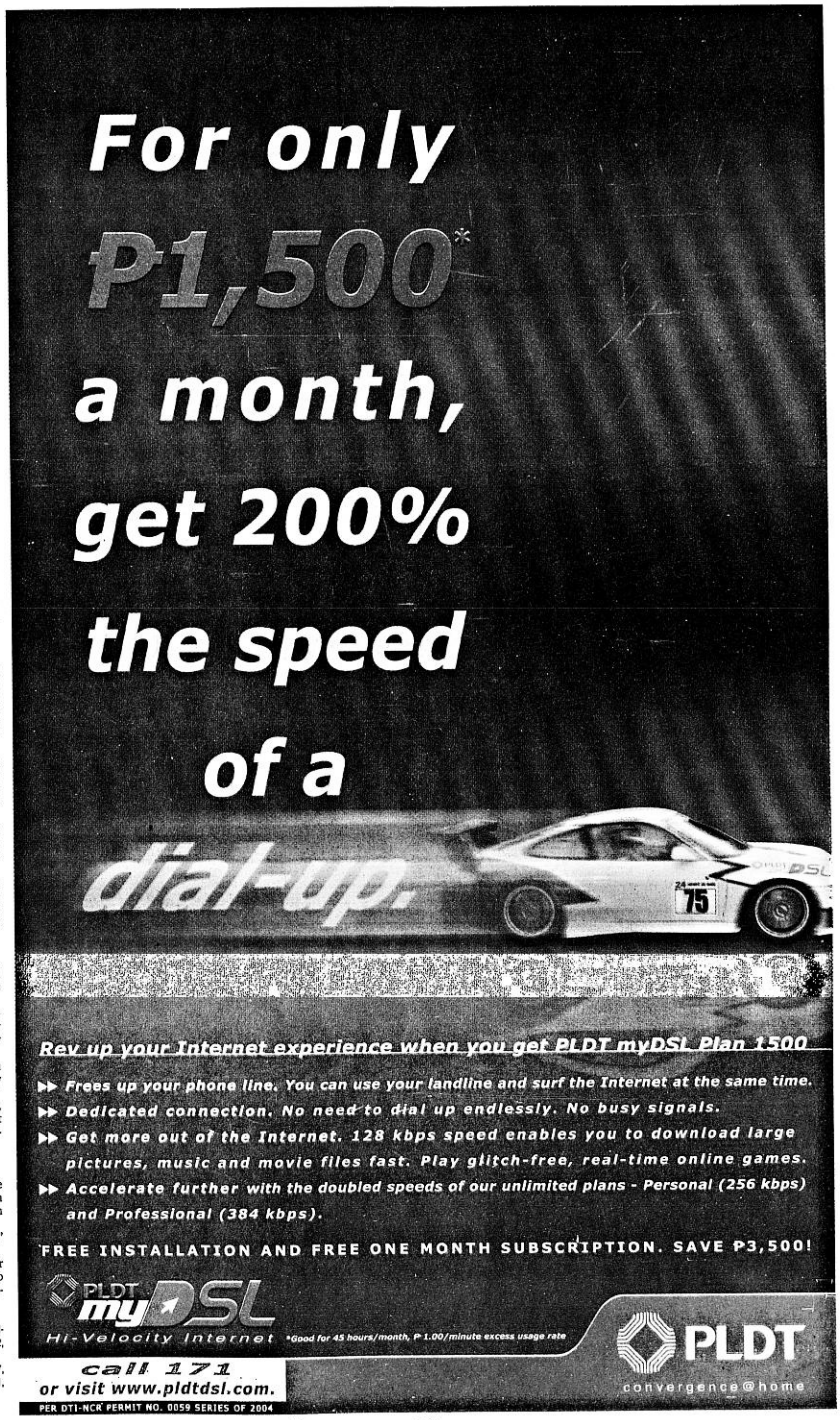
The win served as a fitting last hurrah for Simon, Alvarez, Wesley Gonzales, and Nino Gelig, who are joining the PBA soon for separate teams.

Scores:

FASH 61—Salangsang 14, Simon 12, Gonzales 7, Alvarez 7, Fonacier 6, Tan 5, Tenorio 3, Gelig 3, Benedicto 2, Mercado 2, Dy 0, Dualan 0.

WELCOAT 55—Tangkay 13, Yap 12, Sotto 9, Cuan 7, Pingris 4, Omolon 4, Wilson 2, Latoreno 2, Arladi 1, Reyes 1.

Quarters: 16-14, 26-27, 39-39, 61-55



DAVIS CUP

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By Musong Castillo, *Contributor*

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Lu Hao is scheduled to meet Victorino, while the hard-hitting Yu now clashes with Abadia.

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The Filipinos caught the Chinese out-of-synch in the third set only to run into a virtual wall in the fourth set.

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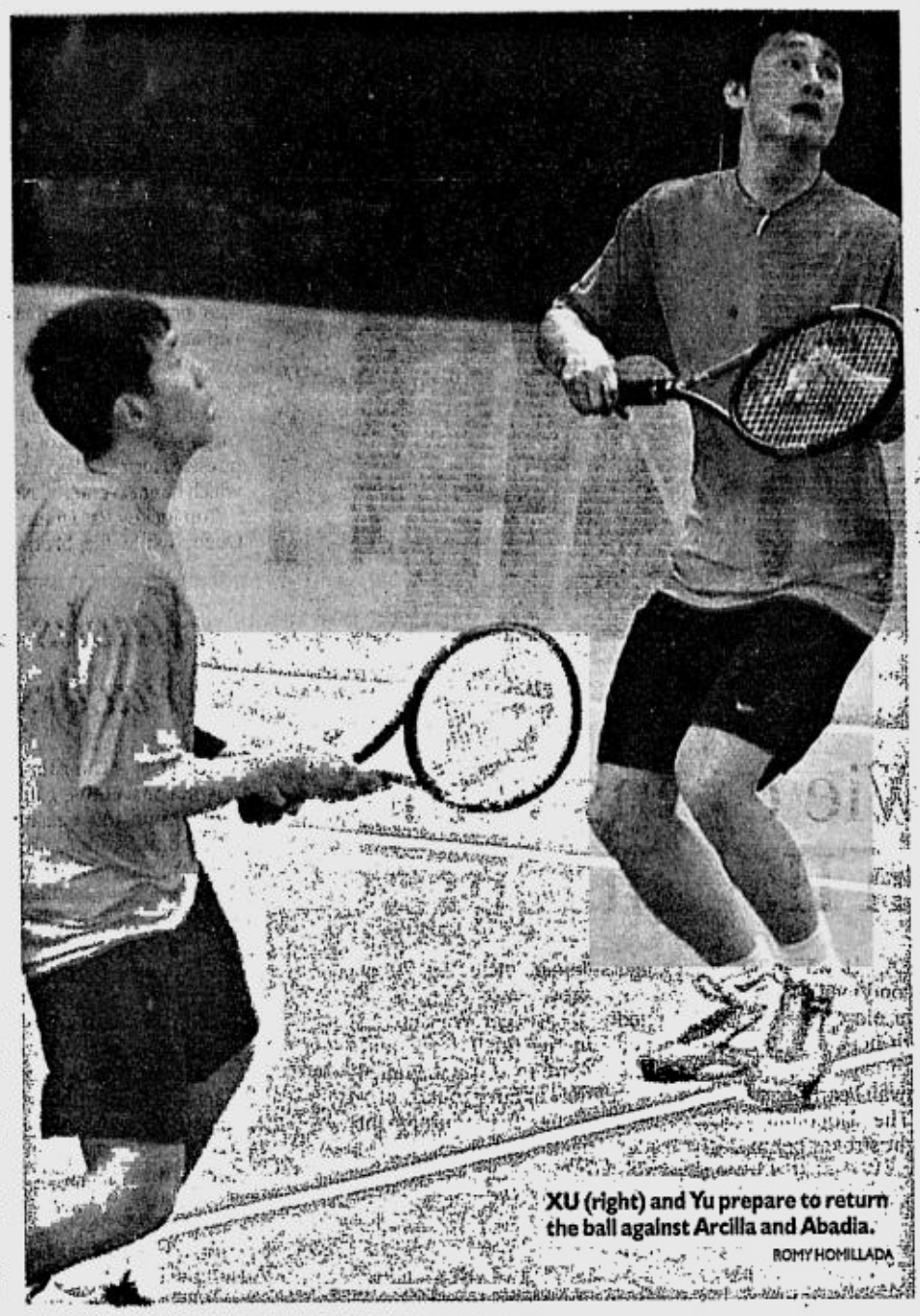

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No one ever outlives an institution; even my favorite bench has withstood the ravages of not only time but also man's vandalistic ways.

No one is indispensable. There will always be suitable replacements to anybody. Fifty persons are waiting to grab one position vacated by anyone.

Nobody has a monopoly of good brains.

Even the greatest of editors, like Ben Bradlee, and publishers, like Katharine Graham, cannot be with us forever. But their newspaper (The Washington Post), almost always, will.

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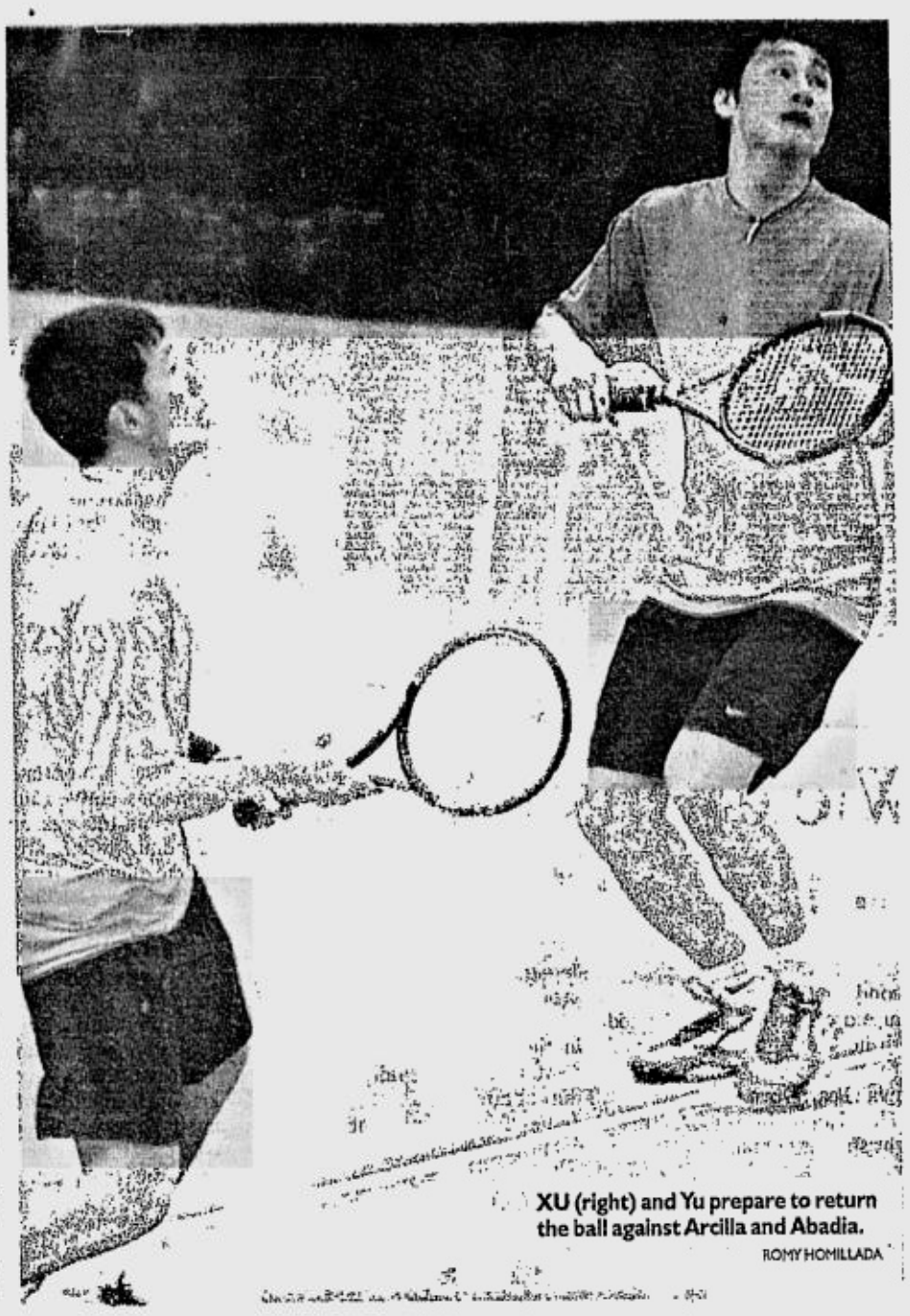

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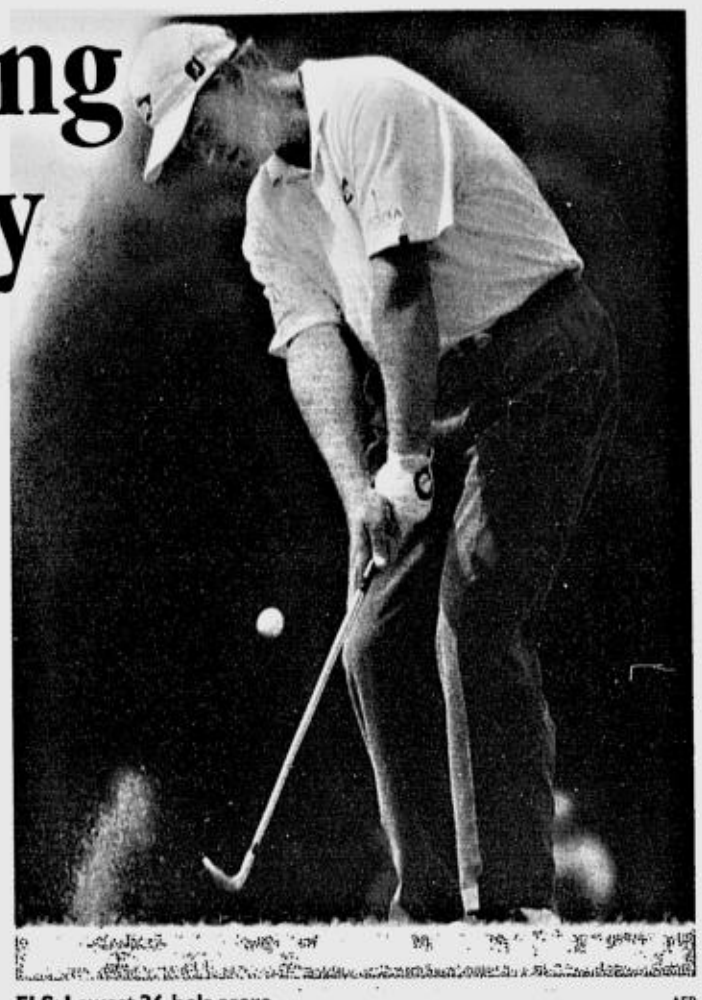
Record-ripping Els pulls away by 8 strokes



ELS: Lowest 36-hole score AFP

MELBOURNE, Australia—Record-breaking Ernie Els appeared on his way to a third consecutive Heineken Classic title after shooting a 4-under-par 68 Saturday to hold an eight-stroke lead after three rounds at Royal Melbourne.

Els flirted with a 59 Thursday and settled for a career-best 60, then shot 66 Friday to break the record for the lowest 36-hole score on the European Tour—18-under 126.

On Saturday, Els came within a shot of his 54-hole European Tour record of 23-under 193 he set last year at Lake Karrinyup in Western Australia at the Johnnie Walker Classic.

Els won the Lake Karrinyup tournament with a European record 72-hole total of 29-under 259, a mark within reach if he shoots 65 or better Sunday. Last year, Els won the season-opening Mercedes Championship in Hawaii by eight strokes, finishing 31-under to break the US PGA Tour record for relation to par.

After three rounds in Melbourne, Els is at 22-under 194. Els' playing partner, Adam Scott, and New Zealand's Gareth Paddison are tied for second at 14-under 202, Scott after a 68 and Paddison after a 67.

Sweden's Peter Hanson, who shot 66 Saturday, and Australians Peter Fowler (69) and Peter O'Malley (68), are tied for fourth at 13-under 203.

Meanwhile, Vijay Singh wasn't in the lead Friday at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am in California, but it sure seemed that way.

For one thing, Singh got the most difficult of the three courses out of the way with a 4-under 68 at Spyglass Hill that left him only one stroke behind Luke Donald of England. *AP*

TOP RIDERS
Caltex athletes were given recognition in the first ever Golden Wheel Awards at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium of the RCBC Tower in Makati City. The motorsports achievers are (from left) Oscar Aguilar (National Junior Touring Car Championship and the SVI Challenge Cup), Robert Abas (4x4 off-roading), Glenn Aguilar (Asian FIM Motocross).

Wie opens with 74 in Hawaii tourney

AIEA, Hawaii—Playing in her second men's event this year, 14-year-old Michelle Wie struggled with her putter, but still opened with a 2-over par 74 at the Hawaii Pearl Open on Friday.

The Honolulu resident was eight strokes behind early leader Brett Wayment, who shot a 6-under 66.

"I was just out of my rhythm today," Wie said. "I didn't play as well as I wanted to, the putts just didn't fall. I think I need to work on my putting."

The ninth-grader is the only female in the field of 192, and the youngest overall for the third straight year in the 54-hole event, one of the premier golf tournaments in the state.

The field includes 92 men from Japan, including 70 of the top pros.

Last year, Wie shot a 5-over 77 in the final round and tied for 43rd. In 2002, she failed to make the cut after rounds of 74 and 80 in her first tournament playing against men.

"The Pearl opened the door for me playing against the men," she said. "It helped me a lot."

Wie's round, which started on the back nine, included one birdie and three bogeys. She struggled early in the winds, hitting just 2-of-7 fairways, and had a 37 midway through the round. *AP*

Santa Ana hosting year's first big race

AUSTRALIA-bred imports are expected to take the limelight in the P500,000 Philracom Open Stakes, the first major racing event of the year, today at the Santa Ana Park.

Ouzo, Real Slew, Time Gentleman and Buena Sera are tipped to crowd each other out for the P300,000 first prize in the 1,800-meter race launching the Philippine Racing Commission's year-long stakes calendar.

A noted speedball, Ouzo will run as a coupled bet of Real Slew, who beat Time Gentleman in a recent invitational race.

Both Ouzo and Real Slew are carrying the colors of the powerhouse Hermie Esguerra Stable which has also entered Neat Laurel.

Top jockey Pat Dilema is riding Ouzo, while his brother, Val, is guiding Real Slew.

Also joining the fray is newcomer Treeline, runner-up to Material Maker in her recent debut. The 5-year-old chestnut mare is sired by former US Breeders' Cup Juvenile champion Timber Country out of US-bred mare Amaranth. Handling Treeline is Jeffril Zarate.

Fernando Raquel Jr. is riding Time Gentleman, Eldy Salvador will be aboard Buena Sera while John Cordero is partnering Neat Laurel.

Completing the cast is the lone local galloper, Schumacher, to be skippered by Jeffrey Bacaycay.

Second to fourth placers will get P112,500, P62,500 and P25,000, respectively.

A total of 13 races starting at 1:30 p.m. are on tap today.

Hawks soar past Celts; Pacers whip Raptors

BOSTON—The Atlanta Hawks won consecutive games for the first time this season, getting 23 points from Shareef Adbur-Rahim and 22 from Stephen Jackson in a 100-96 victory over the Boston Celtics on Friday night.

"We hurt ourselves with turnovers but it was a win and a win on the road, so we'll take it," said Adbur-Rahim.

It was the Celtics' sixth straight loss and their fifth in a row under interim head coach John Carroll, who took over on Jan. 27 when Jim O'Brien resigned.

The Hawks held a 15-point lead at halftime but watched it disappear in the fourth quarter. After Jackson hit a 3-pointer with 54 seconds left to give the Hawks a 97-92 lead, Paul Pierce hit four throws to cut the Hawks' lead to 97-96 with 17 seconds remaining.

In Toronto, Ron Artest scored 27 points, Jermaine O'Neal added 20 and Al Harrington 19 as the Eastern Conference-leading Indiana Pacers beat Toronto, 83-77.

Jamaal Tinsley scored five of Indiana's last seven points after Toronto closed within two. O'Neal added 14 rebounds as the Pacers won for the fourth time in five games.

Complete results:

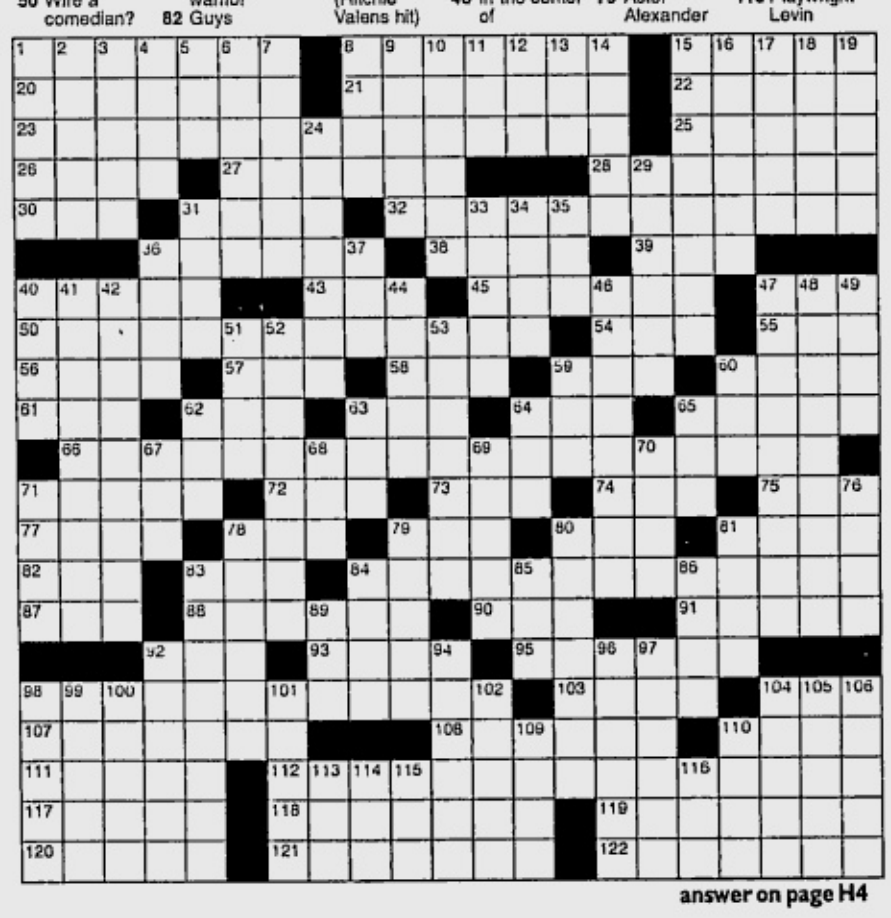
Washington 112, LA Clippers 100; Atlanta 100, Boston 96; Indiana 83, Toronto 77; New Jersey 120, Orlando 99; New Orleans 92, Detroit 81; Minnesota 103, Cleveland 92; Memphis 105, Milwaukee 85; Houston 82, Chicago 80; Portland 97, Utah 73; Seattle 107, Phoenix 105; Golden State 96, Denver 87; San Antonio 102, Sacramento 94.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone — APT ACTIONS

ACROSS
1 Jazz band member
8 Commuter's buy, perhaps
15 Book of maps
20 "Way to go, son!"
21 Like a negatively charged atom
22 Path
23 Brand a baseball player?
25 Social group
26 Abbr. after Ringling
27 Sunflower Stater
28 Small flower arrangement
30 Archer's asset
31 Spruce kin
32 Gently touch an actor?
36 It's classified
38 Speak like Daffy Duck
39 Rock producer Brian
40 "— Such As I" ('59 song)
43 German article
45 Car safety feature
47 Animal's throat
50 Wire a comedian?
54 Taxing org.
55 Suffix with character
56 Pupil's place
57 Craze
58 Gene splicer's need
59 Phoenix Open org.
60 Give the cold shoulder to
61 Lair
62 Frequently, to poets
63 Shriner's cap
64 File folder feature
65 Crude dudes
66 Pester a singer?
71 John Deere product
72 Place
73 Physicist Planck
74 Turn thumbs down on
75 Muscles below pecs
77 P.D.Q.'s cousin
78 Stephen of "The Crying Game"
79 Plane
80 Record store stock
81 South African warrior
82 Guys
83 — Guevara
84 Whip a cowboy?
87 Beast of burden
88 Sonata sections
90 Attention
91 Beginning
92 Toy dog, for short
93 Bit of rain
95 Loud and rude
98 Burglarize a director?
103 Forget to mention
104 — -fi film
107 Entertainer Hall
108 Parachuted, with "out"
110 Work for
111 Din
112 Send an invoice to a politician?
117 Below
118 Getty of "The Golden Girls"
119 Leading lady
120 Sonneteers, say
121 The blues
122 He played Lou Grant

DOWN
1 "La —" (Ritchie Valens hit)
2 Pioneering video-game system
3 Senator Thurmond
4 — Fifth Avenue
5 ThinkPad producer
6 Permeate
7 Mean ruler
8 Emeril's expletives
9 Open, as a soda bottle
10 Traffic light, e.g.
11 Comic-book sound effect
12 Singer DiFranco
13 Knightly title
14 Fragrance
15 Voice recital selections
16 Bullfighter
17 Playwright Pirandello
18 Up, on the diamond
19 "Later!"
24 Massaged
29 1998 Masters winner Mark
31 Hand part
33 Queen topper
34 Sorority letters
35 Spring mo.
36 Calamities
37 JFK's party
40 In the center of
41 They go to blazes!
42 Naha residents
44 Winona of Hollywood
46 Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman led them
47 Devouring ones
48 Color of the clear sky
49 Halloween hang-ups
51 Up in the air
52 Battle the soprano
53 Digestion aids
59 Amigo
60 Father's Day gift giver
62 Hockey legend
63 Cook in a wok
64 Nickname for a cowboy
65 Spar
67 Sales agt.
68 Car-towing org.
69 Get clean
70 Trout, e.g.
71 Baby doll's cry
76 Bird treat
78 Equilateral parallelograms
79 Actor Alexander
80 Wonderland's creator
81 Clownish
83 Sinatra and Crosby
84 Actress Loughlin of "Full House"
85 Chemist's workplace
86 Misplaced
89 Monogram of Mamie's guy
92 Fixed in advance
94 Small stone
96 Actor Don of "Cocoon"
97 Moved like a crab
98 Amassed, as a bar tab
99 Maine college town
100 Less-played half of a 45
101 Choir attire
102 Train supports
104 Gown fabric
105 Old hag
106 Private
109 Seine sights
110 Son of Seth
113 "Patience — virtue"
114 Inc., overseas
115 Novelist Deighton
116 Playwright Levin



answer on page H4

Hefty bonuses await Wind Blown progenies

FUTURE progenies of Wind Blown stand to get close to P9 million in prizes under the Pioneer-Wind Blown Bonus Incentive Program which was launched last Thursday.

The first-of-its-kind agreement was forged between Pioneer Insurance and sportsman Herminio Esguerra, in cooperation with the Philippine Racing Commission, Metropolitan Association of Race Horseowners and the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization.

The unique incentive program would now ensure that Wind Blown would be given every opportunity to succeed as a sire and, quite possibly, extend his legacy through the breeding shed.

"We are thrilled that Wind Blown's achievements as a racehorse will now serve as a rallying symbol for the major players of the local racing industry to come together in support of a program that aims to pass on his brilliance to his future offspring," said Esguerra.

Set to stand his first season as a stallion at the Herma Farms and Stud in Lipa City, Batangas, starting this year, Wind Blown's first crop of progenies are expected to arrive next year and will be of racing age as 2-year-olds in 2007.

"This program is a recognition of a common interest and desire to promote and pursue the objective producing the future champion race horse out of the most accomplished Philippine-bred race horse," said David Coyukiat, president and chief executive officer of Pioneer Insurance.

ESGUERRA (center) links hands with the other signatories of the MOA. Also shown (from left) are Ereñeta, Lagdameo, Coyukiat, Dilag, Puyat and Kahn.

Esguerra signed the Memorandum of Agreement with Coyukiat, Philracom chair Jaime Dilag, Marho president Aristeo Puyat, Philtobo chair Antonio Lagdameo, PRCI head Ramon Ereñeta Jr. and MJCI marketing chief Henri Kahn.

Pioneer, an insurance group and market leader engaged in general and life insurance products as well as in customized coverages, has earmarked no less than P8.8 million in bonus prizes for the program, making it the single biggest corporate sponsorship commitment in local horse racing.

The said program will operate in alliance with the Philracom, Marho and Philtobo, particularly in their respective major championships for 2-year-olds in 2007 and 3-year-olds in 2007 and 3-year-olds in 2008.

These races include the Philtobo Mitra Cup Juvenile Colts and Fillies, Marho Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies and Philracom Juvenile Fillies, Marho Breeders' Cup Juvenile Colts and Juvenile Fillies, and the Philracom Juvenile Open Championship in 2007 as well as the 2008 Philracom Triple Crown Series.

As part of the sponsorship agreement, the guaranteed winner's prizes in all of those races will be matched by Pioneer Insurance if the winners are first-crop progenies of Wind Blown.

Wind Blown progenies who will win the Philtobo Mitra Cup Juvenile Colts and Juvenile Fillies in 2007 and Marho Breeders' Cup Juvenile Colts and Juvenile Fillies races also stand to receive an additional P600,000 in bonus prize.

The biggest bonus payout for a 2-year-old Wind Blown progeny can be realized with a victory in the 2007 Philracom Juvenile

HEFTY/ A29

Pioneering project

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

THREE years from now, progenies of the great Wind Blown are expected to strut their wares and hopefully join the fray for prestige and supremacy in the various stakes races here.

This early, names such as Wind Blown Again, Windswept, Wind Master, Wind in My Neck, Wind Lover and Wind Breaker, among others, are cropping up in the minds of horseowners wishing to have a Wind Blown progeny or two running under their racing colors.

Realizing the potential of Wind Blown to succeed as a sire, owners, breeders and other local racing bigwigs jammed the Manila Polo Club Turf Room last Thursday to witness the historic launching of the Wind Blown Bonus Incentive Program. *(See related story)*.

Under the unique project, progenies of Wind Blown who will win major races under the auspices of the Philracom, Marho and Philtobo in 2007 and 2008 stand to get juicy bonuses totaling close to P9 million earmarked by top insurance firm Pioneer.

The Memorandum of Agreement for the program was signed by leading horseowner Hermie Esguerra, Pioneer chief David Coyukiat, Philracom head Jimmy "Action Man" Dilag, Marho boss Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, Philtobo chair Antonio Lagdameo and PRCI's Ramon Ereñeta Jr.

Sandy Javier, Wind Blown's breeder, was also there along with Rudy Mendoza, Manny Viray, Ramon Balatbat, Joy Rojas, Albert Yam, Ed Gonzales, Jess Cantos, Joseph Dyhengco, Jose Ma. Franco, Antonio de Ubago, Jose Mari Franco, Roberto Ungson, commissioner Vergel Cruz, Andy Maramag and Henri Kahn.

Likewise joining the enthusiastic crowd were trainers Nestor Manalang, Bojie Fernandez, Nick Atienza, Ramon Domingo and jockeys' academy instructor George Stribling.

Orlando "Galman" Primo, Tumbok's racing and *sabong* columnist who joined me, chairman Dilag and Bulgar's Jonathan "Panilat" Balani in the table, said he wouldn't be surprised if he sees an all-Wind Blown progenies dominating the local racing landscape three years from now.

***

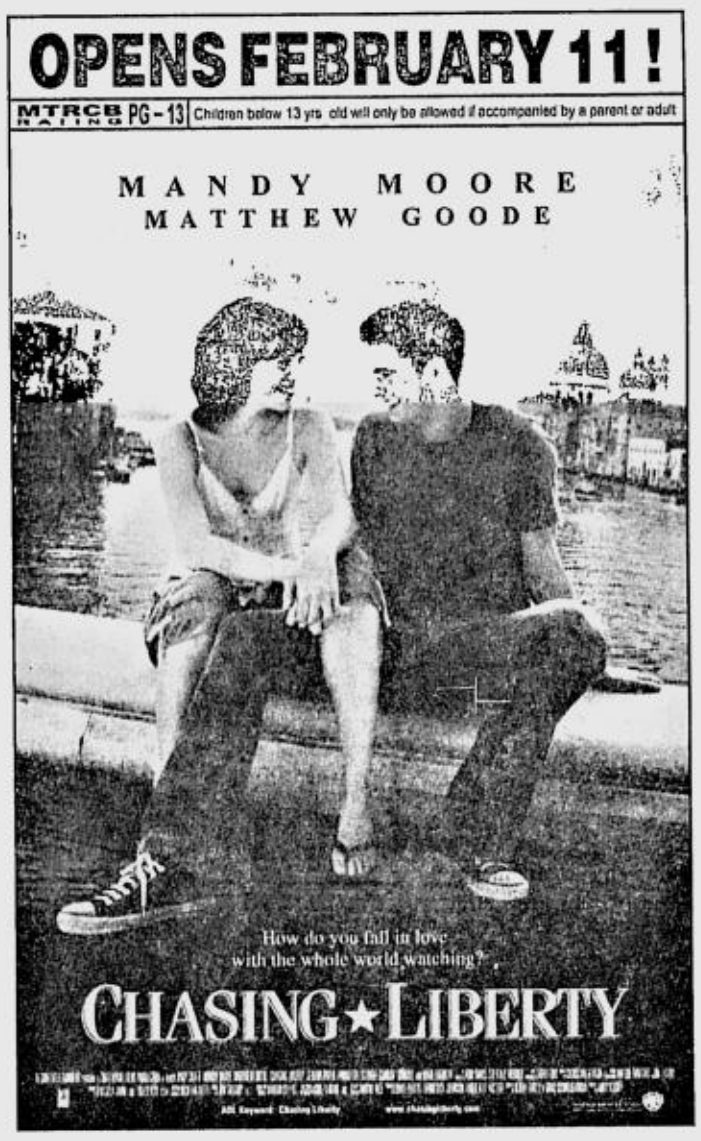
Me and my WHIP-mates would like to thank Mr. Esguerra for allowing us to use a portion of Thursday's affair for the group's induction.

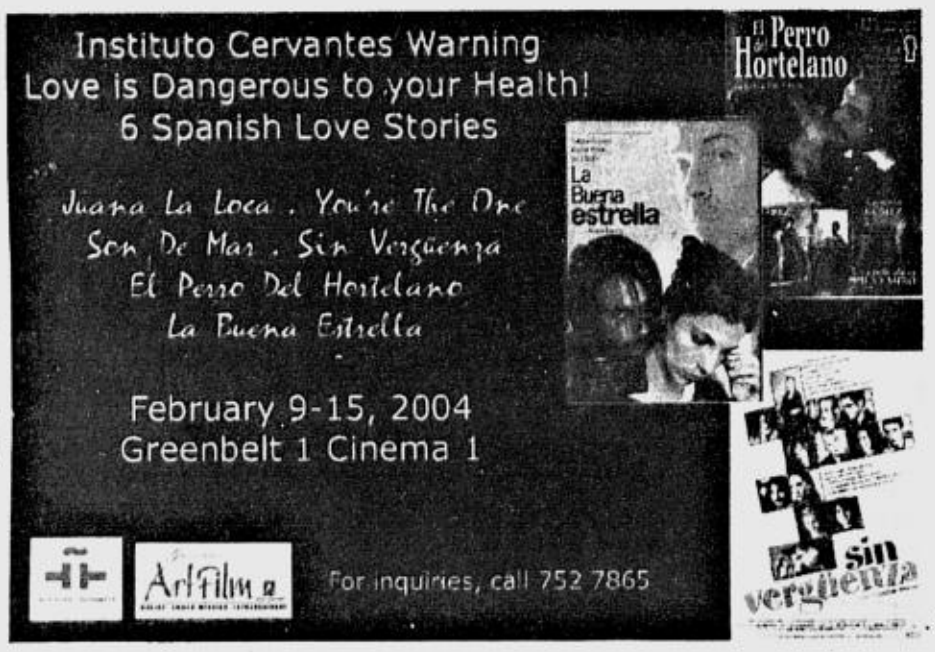
To Andy Sevilla, Ceferino "Howie" Basilio, Jenny Ortuoste, Galman, Jonathan, Ka Edong Detubio, Vince Trinidad, Dennis Iñigo, Per Taboy, Ira Herrera and Bobot Manzano, *mabuhay kayong lahat!*

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

RACING TIPS

Race 1—1. Ganda 2. Wild Orphan 3. Gleaming Heart
Race 2—1. Cartada Nueve 2. Hurricane Doding 3. Queen of Gala
Race 3—1. Vice Free 2. Sabi Ko Na 3. Native Prince
Race 4—1. Lightning Strike 2. Nagmamahal
Race 5—1. Suterain Era 2. Aspire 3. Count Your Blessings
Race 6—1. Shining Lance 2. Western Dancer 3. Red Rose
Race 7—1. Silver Eagle/Lucky Beat 2. Habagat 3. Dinner Dress 4. Impromptu
Race 8—1. Real Slew/Ouzo 2. Buena Sera
Race 9—1. Will to Fight 2. Silver Cho Cho 3. Silver Dollar
Race 10—1. My Sheikh 2. Never Enough 3. Golden Moment
Race 11—1. Napa Valley 2. Risen Free 3. Don't Tell Me 4. Parrot Moe
Race 12—1. Earl Gray 2. Puppy Dog Tail 3. Sheer Courage
Race 13—1. Break Away 2. Cable Car 3. Ocean Wings 4. Chase the Wind 5. Assunta de Rio 6. Early warning





BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Lewis retires

LEWIS

LAS VEGAS—Lennox Lewis knew how to fight, and when to quit. Now he can only hope that history will be kinder than the critics who never appreciated his reign as heavyweight boxing champion of the world.

Lewis announced his retirement Friday, ending a 14-year career that was brilliant at times, and puzzling at others. He walked away at the top, his heavyweight belt still securely around his waist and his new fiancee, Violet, at his side.

Lewis beat Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield, defeated the only two men who beat him in rematches, and was a three-time heavyweight champion. He ushered in a new era of big heavyweights that changed the sport and made him rich.

His greatest accomplishment, though, may be in knowing when to walk away — something few of his predecessors could do.

"I didn't want to be known as a boxer all my life," Lewis said. "There's other things I can do that are positive. This is the end of one era, let a new era begin."

The first British fighter to win the heavyweight title in more than a century, Lewis left millions of dollars on the table rather than fight a rematch with Vitali Klitschko. He was still undecided until about two weeks ago, when he decided it was time to retire at the age of 38.

Johnson triumphs

SHEFFIELD, England—Three months after he was denied victory by a drawn decision, American-based Jamaican Glencoffe Johnson on Friday captured the IBF light-heavyweight title with a unanimous decision over Clinton Woods.

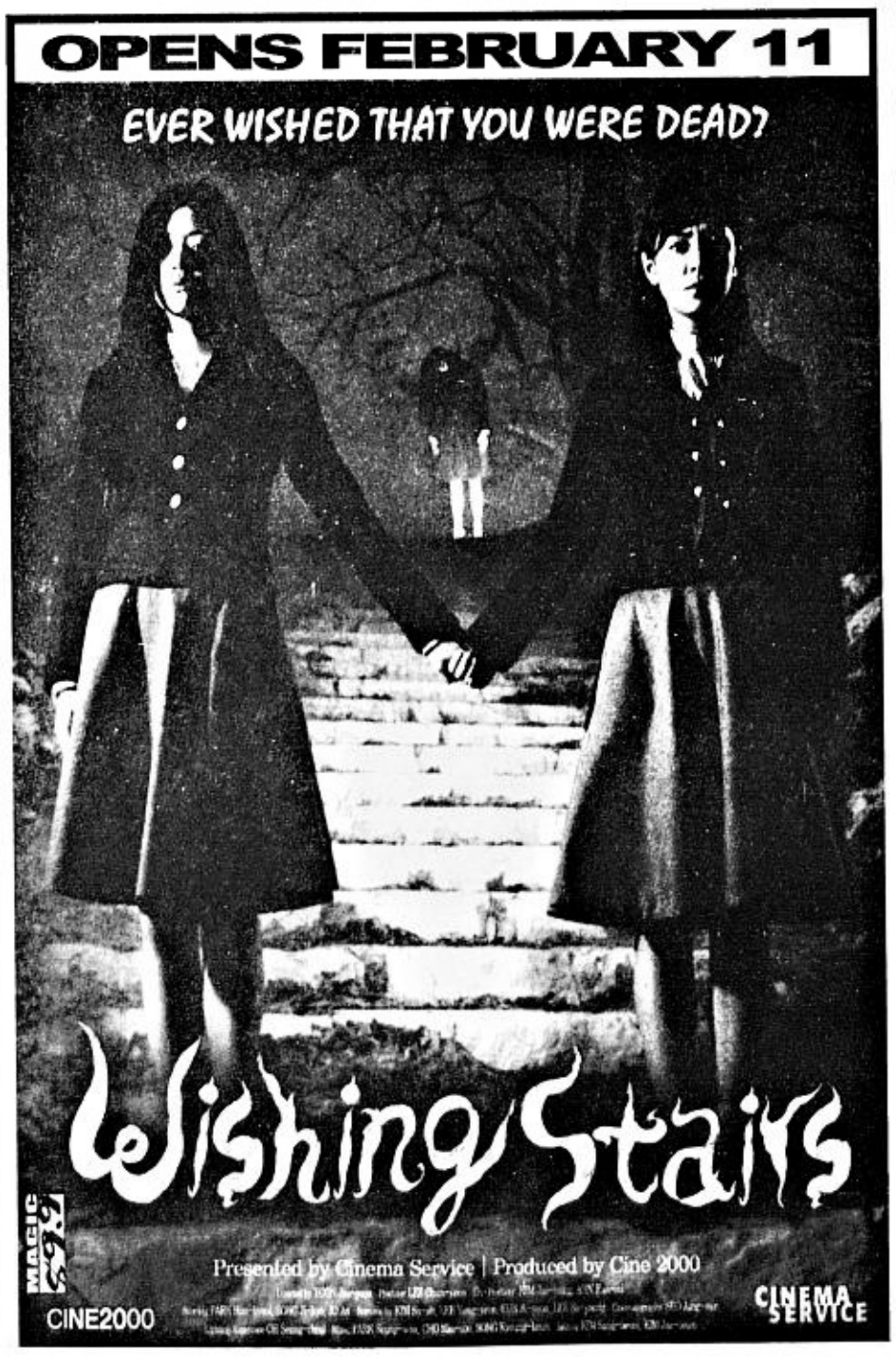
Chasing a title declared vacant by Roy Jones Jr., 35-year-old Johnson was close to flooring the Englishman in round two with a big right hand to the head before he followed up with two left hooks to the body. *AP*

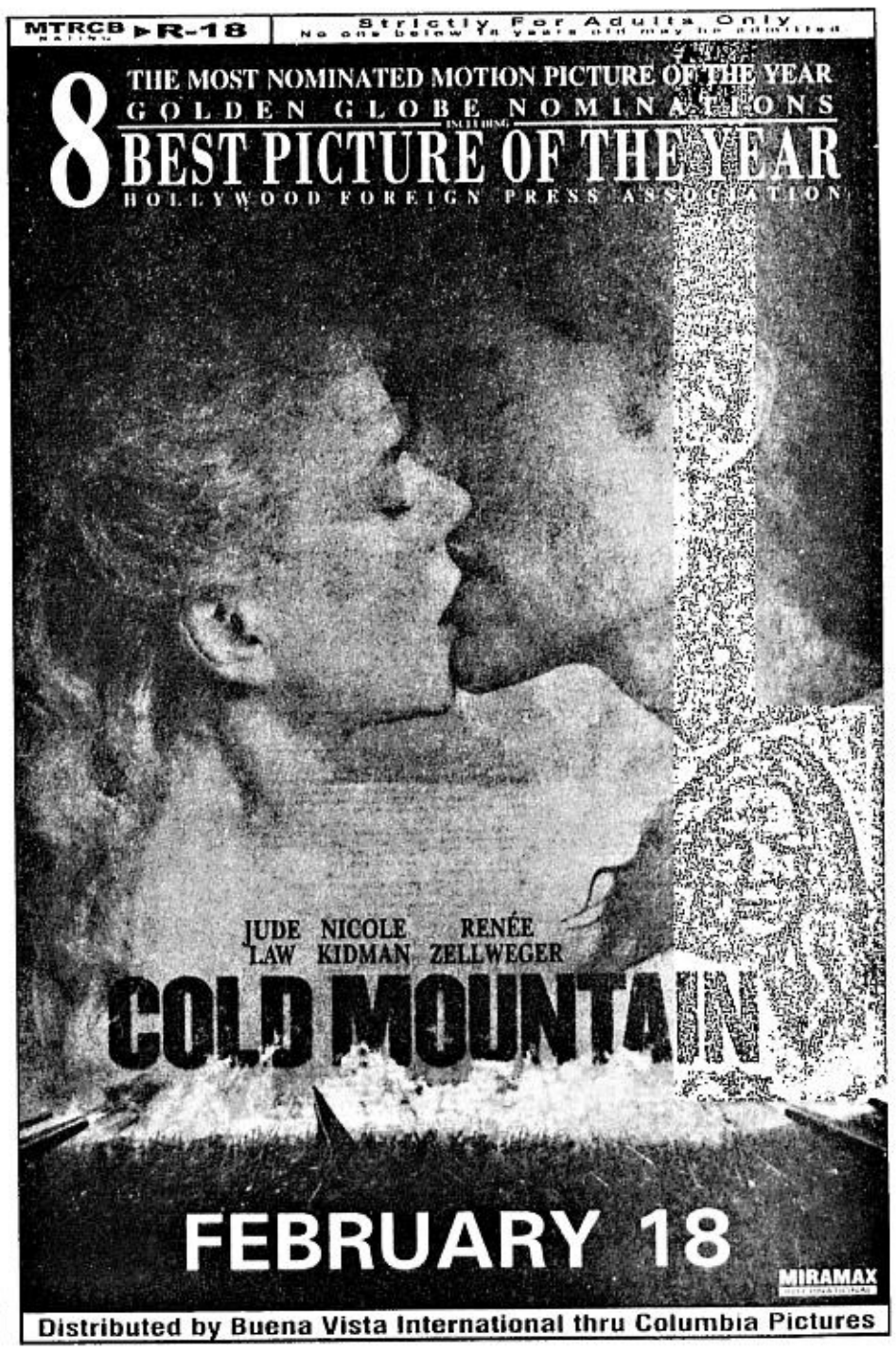
Hefty . . .

From page A28

Open Championship, as Pioneer Insurance will match the P1-million guaranteed purse to the winner and thereby increase the potential winner's purse to P2 million.

In addition to the said bonus, a first crop Wind Blown progeny that would win any of the three legs of the 2008 Triple Crown Series will be entitled to P1-million bonus for each leg victory and an additional P3-million bonus premium for a sweep or a victory in all three legs of a series. In all, a potential Triple Crown champion sired by Wind Blown during the 2008 series can fetch a whopping P6 million in total prizes.





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Guerrero's Japan trip turned down for lack of budget–Pasa

By Trina Ibarle, *Contributor*

THE PHILIPPINE Amateur Swimming Association (Pasa) turned down the request of Jenny Guerrero to train in Japan before the Southeast Asian Games last year because the budget submitted exceeded the funds provided by the First Gentleman Foundation.

This was the explanation given by Pasa president Chito Ilagan yesterday in response to an accusation by Guerrero's father Jun that the aborted training was among the major reasons for Jenny's disastrous showing in Vietnam.

Ilagan said Jenny and fellow swimmer Raphael Chua had proposed a budget of P1.3 million to train in Japan under Japanese coach Ryuzu Ishikawa when both athletes are entitled to only P220,000 each from the "Alay Suporta sa Atletang Pilipino" training fund raised by the FG Foundation.

Also receiving P220,000 each were Liza Danila, Miguel Mendoza, Miguel Molina and Carlo Piccio as members of the roster of 85 athletes deemed as potential gold medalists.

Although the trip was turned down, Pasa secretary general Chito Rivera said Jenny, who won a silver and two bronze medals in the 2001 SEAG in Malaysia, still received her share of the Asap fund.

As an alternative training program in preparation for the SEAG, Rivera said Pasa asked the Philippine Sports Commission that the Asap fund be used by the 10-member RP team for the pre-SEAG meet in Hanoi in October.

"As much as possible, we wanted the whole team to undergo SEAG training because we have many talented swimmers with medal hopes," Rivera said.

But the six athletes didn't allow their Asap funds to be used by the whole swimming team except for Danila.

When the PSC turned down the request, the SEAG-bound tankers went back to training under national coach Guy Concepcion.

As for the coaching staff changing Jenny's usual stroke prior to the SEAG, national training director Anthony Lozada said this was done because Jenny has been executing the breaststroke the wrong way.

"She had been disqualified in the Asian Games in Busan because of the wrong stroke. We did not want that to happen in the SEAG. It was just a matter of fine-tuning and not entirely changing her stroke because she has been doing it correctly before," said Lozada, who was Jenny's former coach.

Reynante sparkles among RP riders

LLOYD Lucien Reynante emerged best finisher among Pagcor-Casino Filipino riders in Stage 2 of the Tour de Langkawi in Malaysia Saturday.

Reynante, son of former Tour champion Mawi and winner of the 1st Tour of Metro Manila last November, covered the 151.60 km route from Ipoh to Tanah Rata in 3 hours, 47 minutes and 30 seconds and wound up 44th among the 138-man starting field.

He also got the same position overall as all cyclists were given identical times of 2:35.09 for the nullified Stage 1 on Friday. As such, the order of finish in Stage 2, won by Colombia Selle-Italia's Marlon Perez, was reflective of the general standings.

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted
Based on the bestselling novel by SUSANNA MOORE
"An erotic thriller capable of inducing nightmares and guaranteed to shock even hard boiled audiences." –The Miami Herald
A serial killer who cannot be caught.
A woman who knows too much.
A detective who hides a secret.
MEG RYAN MARK RUFFALO
KEVIN BACON
JENNIFER JASON LEIGH
IN THE CUT
A film by Jane Campion
MAGIC 89.9

SM CINEMA
what to watch
KIDS TIME!
Watch Walt Disney's new release this season...
Drop by the SM Cinema for a bear-sighting adventure!
SM Megamall - Jan. 17 to Feb. 8
SM City Southmall - Jan. 21 to Feb. 8
SM Manila - Feb. 5 to 9
up next
February 11 MTRCB Rating: GP
February 25 Subject to MTRCB Rating
now showing
BROTHER BEAR
MTRCB Rating: GP
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4 ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINATIONS
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR KEN WATANABE
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3 GOLDEN GLOBE® NOMINATIONS
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SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARD® NOMINEE KEN WATANABE BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
WINNER BEST DIRECTOR EDWARD ZWICK NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW
TOM CRUISE THE LAST SAMURAI
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
Julia Roberts dazzles in 'Mona Lisa Smile'
Ladies, give yourselves a special treat, and bring your sisters, classmates, girlfriends, Mom, or even a date, to see Julia's new movie.
Academy Award®-winner Julia Roberts heads a powerhouse cast with today's hot young Hollywood actresses - Kirsten Dunst (*Spider-Man*) and Julia Stiles (*Save the Last Dance, 10 Things I Hate About You*) - in an uplifting, heart-wrenching, and often-times funny drama.
Julia Roberts stars as Katherine, a teacher who challenges her bright female students, and discovers herself along the way.
Mike Newell, director of romantic comedy *Four Weddings & a Funeral*, megs a must-see movie to capture your heart and put a smile on your face.
julia roberts mona lisa smile
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CINEMA 1 IN THE CUT 12:25, 3:10, 5:55, 8:40 R18
CINEMA 2 MONALISA SMILE 11:05, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 P13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

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FEB. 12 & 13 "VOTE 1 TAKE ALL" (Willie Nep 4 President) 9:00PM
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Opens Feb 11 at all Ayala Cinemas
A Film by Olivia M. Lamasan
MILAN
CLAUDINE BARRETTO PIOLO PASCUAL
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MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE R18 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:05, 9:30
BROTHER BEAR GP 11:10, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
THE LAST SAMURAI PG13 12:40, 3:50, 6:55, 10:00
IN THE CUT R18 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30
STUCK ON YOU PG13 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00
MONA LISA SMILE PG13 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BAKAT / DOUBLE SEDUCTION
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SEX SCANDAL
B	LORD OF THE RINGS
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KILL BILL
CINEMA-2	PURI
CINEMA-3	MALIKMATA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LAST SAMURAI
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CAPTAIN BARBELL
CINEMA-6	MALIKMATA
CINEMA-7	MEMENTO MORI
CINEMA-8	TWINS EFFECT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LAST SAMURAI
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BROTHER BEAR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STUCK ON YOU
CINEMA-12	LOTR 3: RETURN OF THE KING
CINEMA-14	A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
CINEMA-15	DIABLO

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PIÑAS)	LORD OF THE RINGS 3
CINEMA-1	KILL BILL
CINEMA-2	BANGKOK HAUNTED
CINEMA-4	CABIN FEVER

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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From page A32

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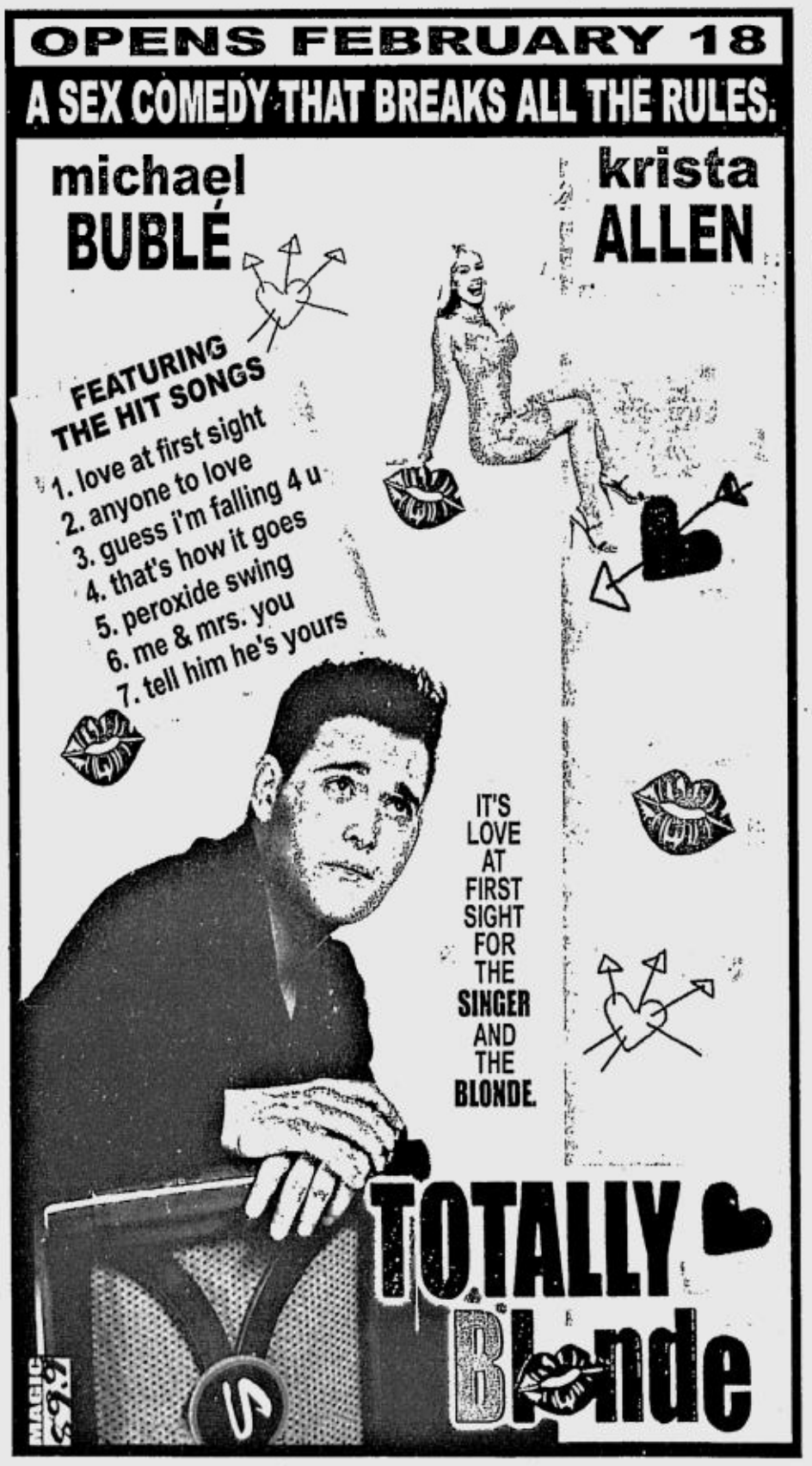

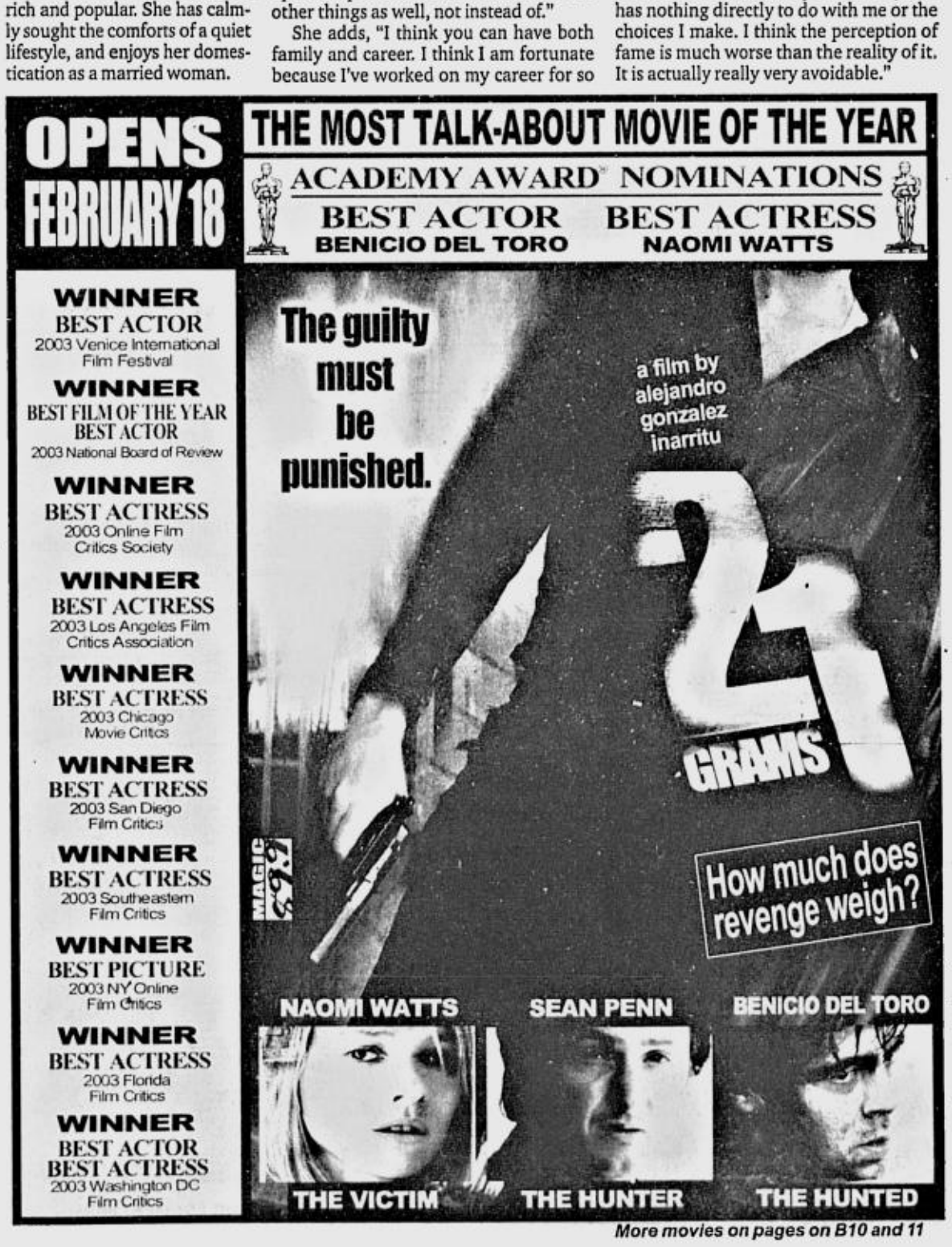

More movies on pages on B10 and 11

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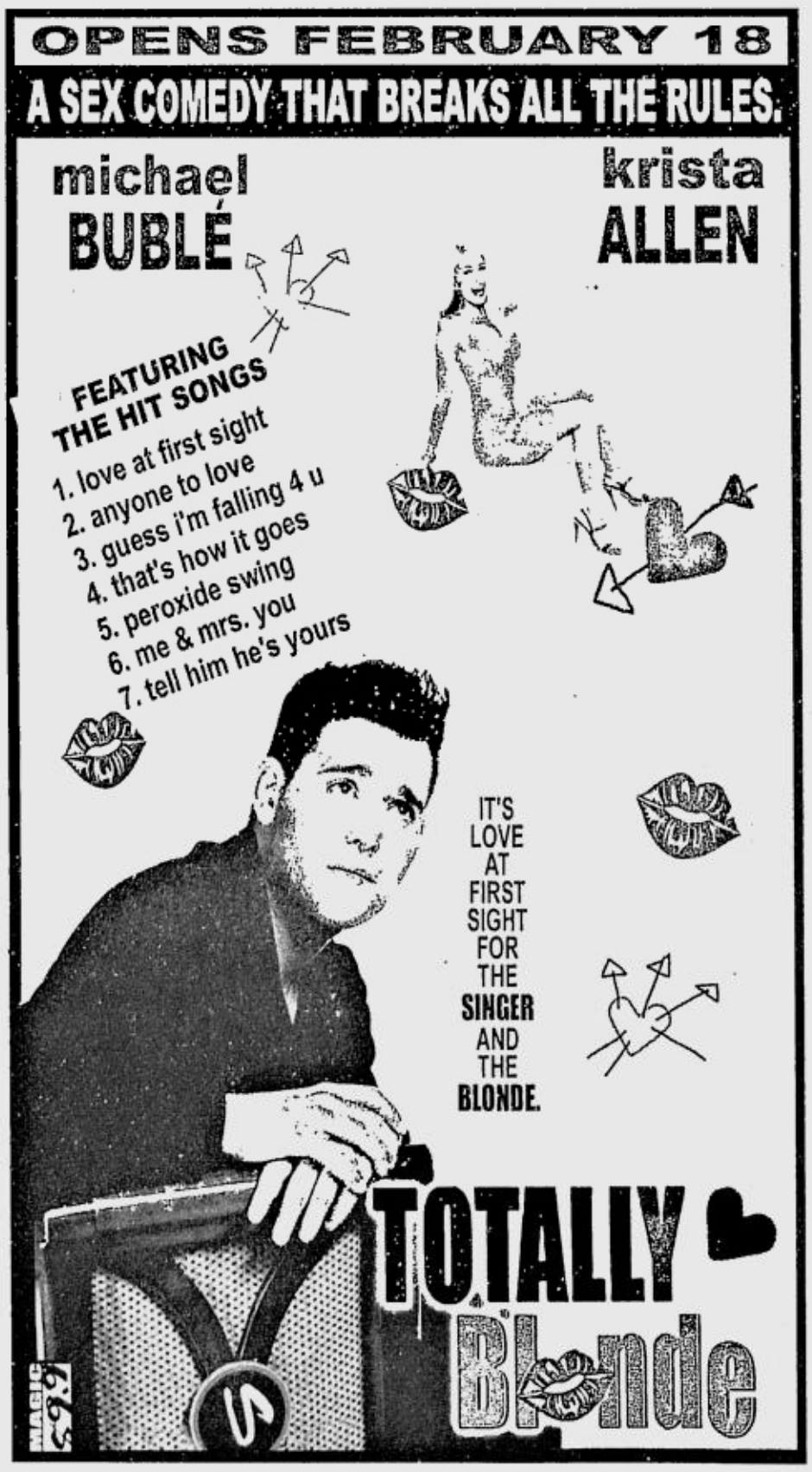

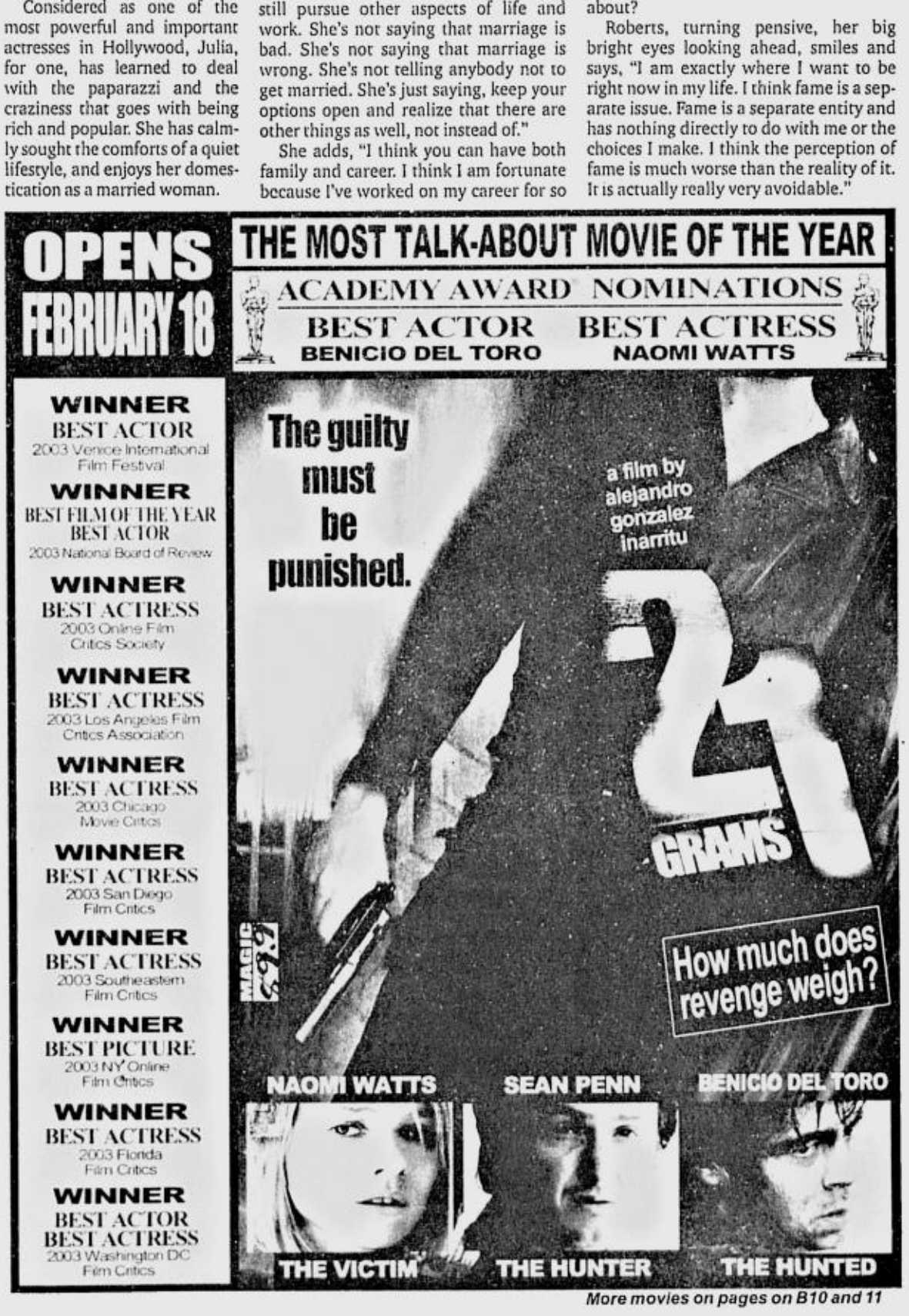

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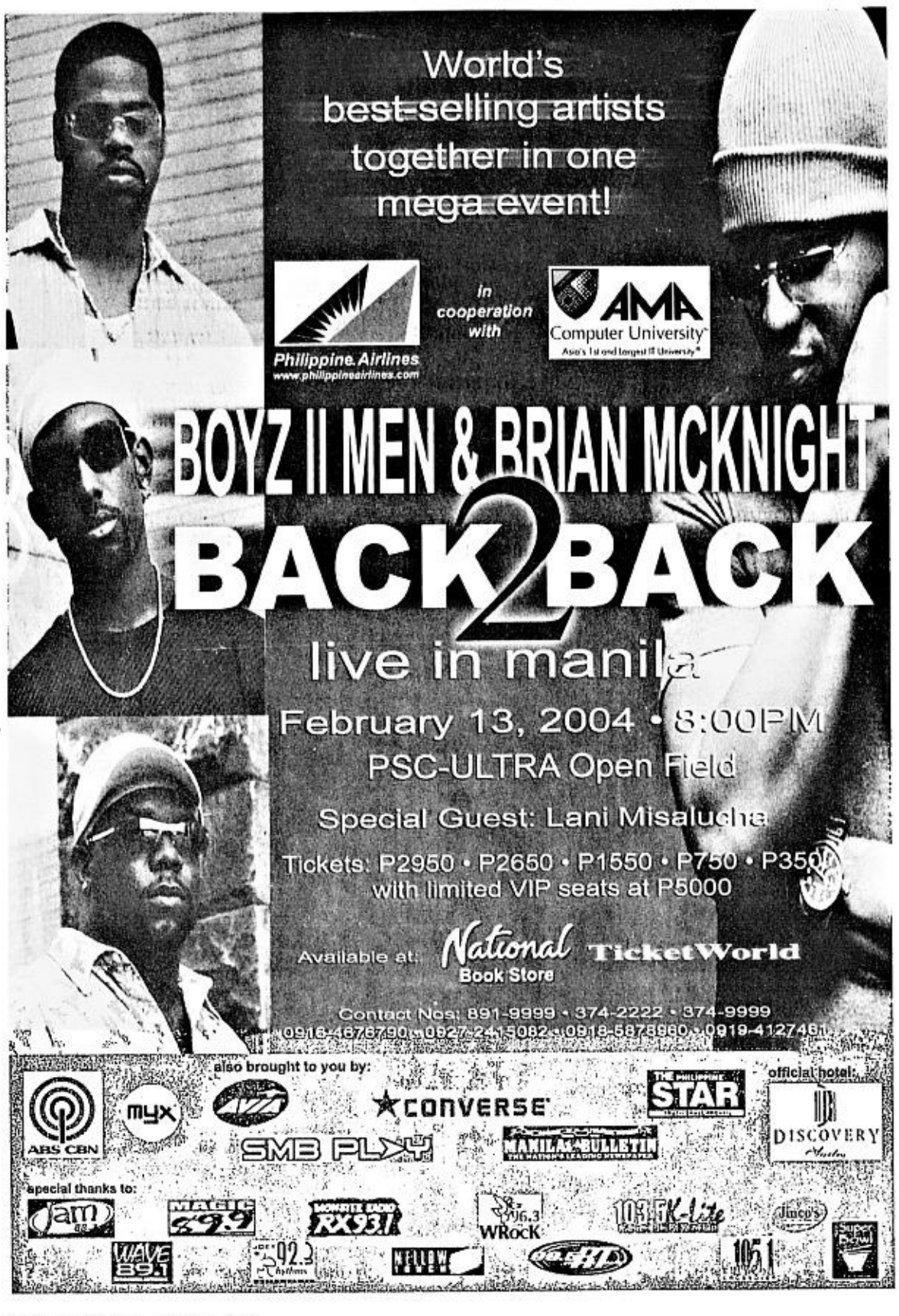

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

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INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
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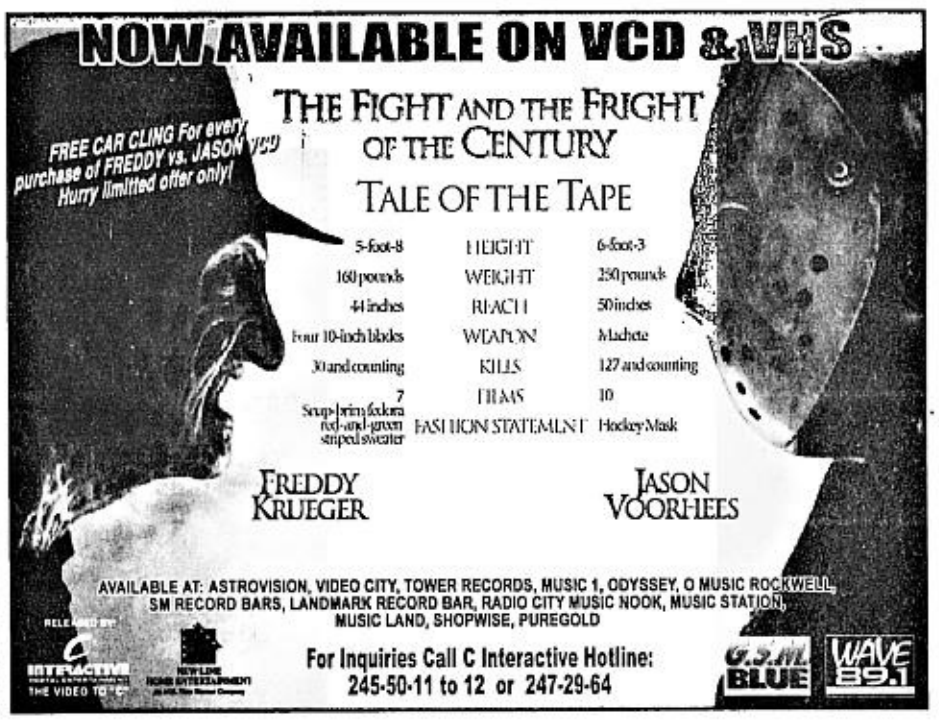
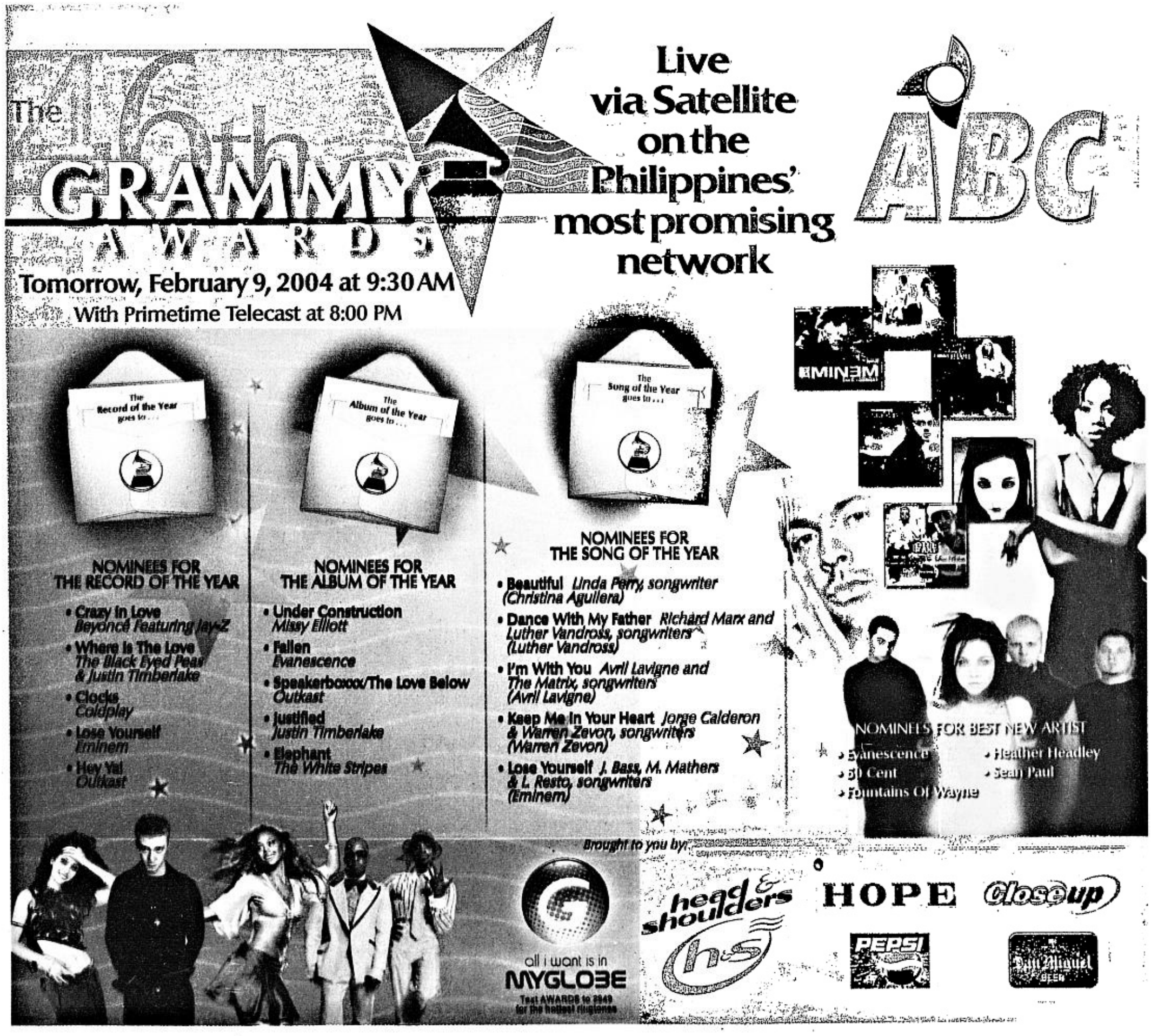
'FAME'/ A29





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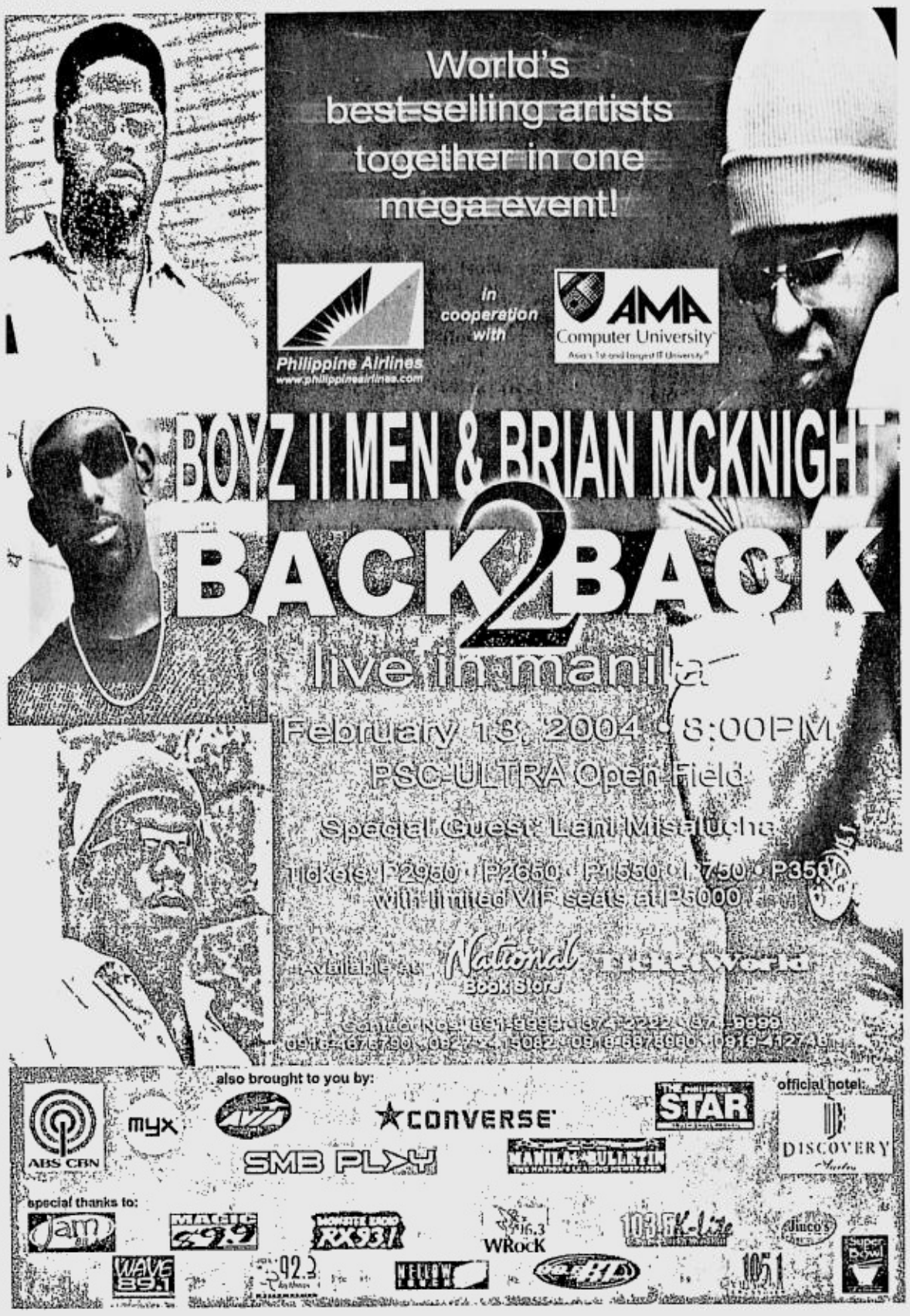

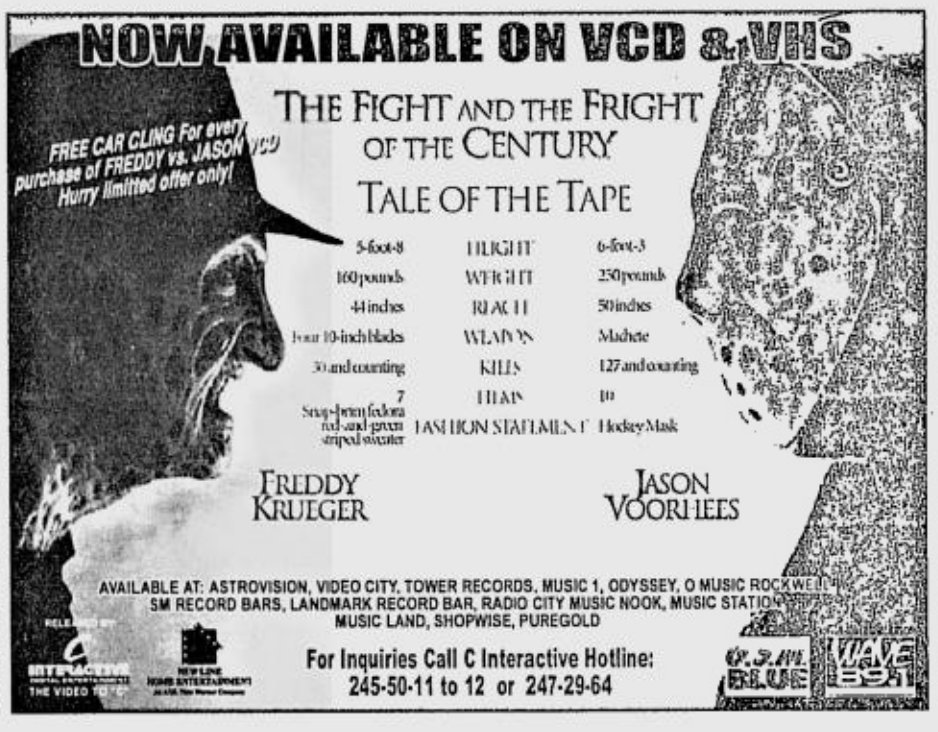

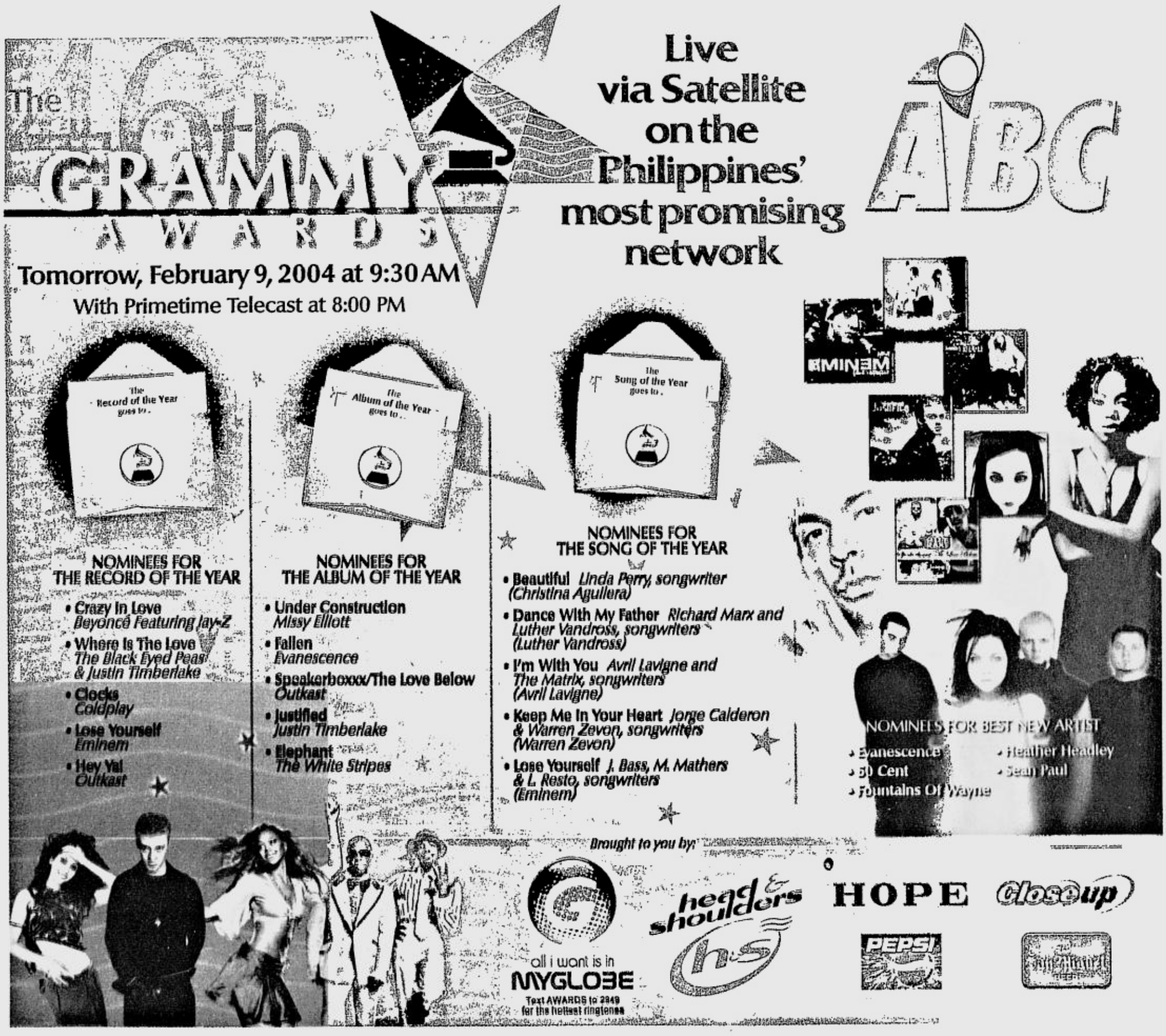

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E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

SIY today

'What you learn in business is not what you learn in school'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

CONVERSING with George T. Siy is like taking a short course on Chinese culture. You learn new things such as the difference between the Chinese and Filipino way of doing business and their varying views on life in general.

He says, for instance, that when Chinese meet, they automatically ask each other, "What business are you in?" Many Filipinos, he explains, feel slighted when the same question is asked.

But ask about personal matters and Filipinos readily share their life stories. Not so for the Chinese.

When Filipino siblings get together, a usual topic is their personal problems, even their new loves.

"But when Chinese siblings get together they ask—how much did you earn today—nothing on the personal side," he says.

FIRST JOB

Siy is the head of one camp of the Siy siblings, currently mired in a rivalry over the family businesses.

But Siy declines to talk about this issue, saying they are in negotiations and that hopefully, an agreement will be reached.

"I hope the family negotiations will push through" he says.

What is being discussed is the division of the businesses and the assets of the family.

The Siy enterprise includes Fil-Pacific Apparel, makers of Jag and Lee; Kenny Rogers chain, Seattle's Best, Popeye's, Marie-France, Facial Care Centers, Svenson and real estate firms.

There are six siblings—Bernar-

WHAT/ B2

Passion

We've outdone ourselves.

For the second consecutive year, we've achieved Triple Crown.

Thank you very much for making us No.1 in Passenger Cars, in Commercial Vehicles and in Overall Sales in 2003.*

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- Down payment for as low as P185,600 for the VX200 Revo A/T and P199,600 for the Rav4 4x2 M/T.
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- Low monthly payments of P10,811 for the RAV4 4x2 for 72 months.***
- Low monthly interest rates.
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VARIANT	SRP	LOW DP	12	18	24	36	48	60	72
REVO VX 200 A/T	928,000.00	185,600.00	63,947	44,024	34,965	25,045	20,418	17,383	
SR A/T	862,000.00	172,400.00	59,176	40,740	32,359	23,178	18,897	16,088	
GSX A/T	827,000.00	165,400.00	56,646	38,998	30,977	22,188	18,090	15,399	
GLX A/T	787,000.00	157,400.00	53,755	37,008	29,397	21,057	17,167	14,613	
GL GAS	678,000.00	135,600.00	45,876	31,584	25,094	17,974	14,654	12,471	
DLX DSL	670,000.00	134,000.00	45,298	31,186	24,778	17,748	14,469	12,314	
RAV4 4x2 (20%dp)	998,000.00	199,600.00	69,454	47,816	37,968	27,196	22,172	18,880	
RAV4 4x2 (50%dp)	998,000.00	499,000.00	42,402	29,192	23,191	16,612	13,543	11,527	10,811

* Based on official 2003 CAMPI Vehicle Sales Results
** 1,000 / 5,000 / 10,000 and 15,000 kms
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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

SIY today

'What you learn in business is not what you learn in school'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

CONVERSING with George T. Siy is like taking a short course on Chinese culture. You learn new things such as the difference between the Chinese and Filipino way of doing business and their varying views on life in general.

He says, for instance, that when Chinese meet, they automatically ask each other, "What business are you in?" Many Filipinos, he explains, feel slighted when the same question is asked.

But ask about personal matters and Filipinos readily share their life stories. Not so for the Chinese.

When Filipino siblings get together, a usual topic is their personal problems, even their new loves.

"But when Chinese siblings get together they ask—how much did you earn today—nothing on the personal side," he says.

FIRST JOB

Siy is the head of one camp of the Siy siblings, currently mired in a rivalry over the family businesses.

But Siy declines to talk about this issue, saying they are in negotiations and that hopefully, an agreement will be reached.

"I hope the family negotiations will push through" he says.

What is being discussed is the division of the businesses and the assets of the family.

The Siy enterprise includes Fil-Pacific Apparel, makers of Jag and Lee; Kenny Rogers chain, Seattle's Best, Popeye's, Marie-France, Facial Care Centers, Svenson and real estate firms.

There are six siblings—Bernar-

WHAT/ B2

Variant	Cash	Down	12	18	24	30	36	42	48
REVO VX 200 A/T	928,000.00	185,600.00	63,947	44,024	34,965	25,045	20,418	17,383	
SR A/T	862,000.00	172,400.00	59,176	40,740	32,359	23,178	18,897	16,086	
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RAV4 4x2 (20%dp)	998,000.00	199,600.00	69,454	47,816	37,968	27,196	22,172	18,880	
RAV4 4x2 (50%dp)	998,000.00	499,000.00	42,402	29,192	23,191	16,612	13,543	11,527	10,611

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Getting the youth to take charge of nature

By Corrie Salientes-Narisma
(First of 3 parts)

A RECENT corporate restructuring called for by the tough challenges in the global business arena had forced Bayer AG to let go of certain businesses and some of its precious people.

Despite the challenges, however, the company refused to let go of and, instead, opted to hold on more tightly to certain endeavors that made its continued existence more meaningful. Foremost of which is Bayer's crusade for the protection of the environment.

Bayer has long gone beyond just ensuring the well being of its immediate surroundings in areas where it operates. Bayer's commitment to Mother Nature now transcends what is required by laws, as it zeroes in on sowing the seeds of this commitment into the hearts and minds of the youth. It now aims to get the youth into assuming greater ownership of their environment by exposing them to both bigger ecological concerns and greater possibilities through the Bayer Young Environmental Envoy (BYEE) program.

BYEE family

Now on its fourth year in the Philippines, the BYEE's yearly search for young environmental envoys is eagerly awaited by many college students in different schools in various parts of the country. Many of them have heard how the program worked on their colleagues who are now part of the BYEE family.

BYEE, through a tough screening process, picks 12 or so college students and takes them to a three-day ecology camping in an environment friendly or environmentally threatened locality. Out of the 12, five to seven are selected for a week-long exposure trip to Leverkusen Germany, home of Bayer AG and a showcase of some of the most successful and most sophisticated technology in environmental protection in the world.

In mid-November, five college students from different schools--one in Manila, two in North Luzon, one in Southern Luzon and one in the Visayas—left for a week-long exposure trip to Germany, together with more than 20 other students from India, China, Singapore and Thailand.

Diana Mallari of Quezon City, Bernard Benjamin Alabano of Ilocos Norte, Gilbert Hamera of Baguio City, Christopher Rhett Alger of Iloilo and Reginald M. Andal of Batangas are into different fields of discipline but are bound by their common concern for the environment. And this exactly was what brought them initially to an ecology camping in Tagaytay and later, to Germany last year.

Experience

Although all of them were already into different types of environmental endeavors before they joined the BYEE, the 2003 envoys said the program, particularly the exposure trip to Germany, opened their eyes to new ideas that could be done here and which now serve as their inspiration in pursuing their respective missions for the environment.

THE 2003 environment envoys—Diana Mallari, Bernard Albano, Reginald Andal, Gilbert Hamera and Rhett Alger—and the journalists accompanying them, take a brief break from their plant visits in Germany.

They admitted that they had felt bad to realize how the Philippines was lagging behind in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development, and how bad the state of the environment here was. But it was also what they saw and heard during the tour that made them realize that it was never too late to act now to save the environment and restore whatever were damaged by many years of neglect and indiscriminate use.

The envoys were given a tour of Leverkusen's and the neighboring cities' history, particularly those years of destruction that had caused so much damage to the environment and the efforts being exerted to heal the wounds of destruction.

Diana and the Rhine River

They went on a cruise of the Rhine River on a lab ship; visited several waste management facilities, including a huge hazardous waste incinerator; walked on a huge landfill and had a brief trip to an enormous waste deposition area that was converted into a state garden park, and toured the agricultural facility in Monheim, including the biological institutes of plant diseases and animal pests. The trip was brief but it undoubtedly made a mark on the young envoys.

Twenty-one-year-old Diana Mallari, a tourism student of the Asian Institute of Tourism in UP Diliman and the only girl in the group, said she was "lost" to all the technical jargons that she came across during the trip and the briefings but the lessons of the trip went right through her heart and mind.

What struck her most was the Rhine River—its history, the gargantuan efforts taken to revive it and its being one of the most successful river restoration project in the world.

"It is inspiring to learn that this river was once biologically dead but through determination and many years of hard work, it was brought back to life and was made, once again, a source of water and livelihood to many, a center of commerce in this part of the world and a habitat for many fish species," Janna, as she is fondly called by friends, said.

In the 1950s to 1960s, this part of the Rhine River (which spans Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands and France) was practically a huge sewage ditch. The stench was unbearable and it was so dirty that practically no fish had survived in it. Step by step, year by year progress was gradually but surely made to bring the river back to life. Massive clean-up and restoration projects were implemented, stricter rules on its use and tougher penalty on violators were imposed and strict monitoring and safeguarding of the river was ensured. In 1994, authorities started breeding salmon again in the river and today, different fish species now thrive in the Rhine.

The Rhine River story boosted Janna's hopes that Ilog Pasig and the other rivers in the country, which are also victims of years of neglect and abuse, could still be saved and revived.

"We are not hopeless. We can do things one step at a time like what they did in Rhine River," she said.

"Our problem is that we never really put our hearts and minds into doing it. Only the government seems to be exerting efforts to revive Ilog Pasig, for example. Efforts were fragmented that programs of different agencies often overlap. The private sector should also be part of the efforts to revive our dying or dead rivers," she said.

(To be continued)

'What you learn in business is not what you learn in school'

From page B1

dine, George, Wilfred, Jacqueline, Angeline and Frederick.

The other camp is led by the eldest, Bernardine, a strong lady in her 40s.

The wealth of the Siy family was started by the patriarch, Ramon, who set up Solid Mills with other shareholders. Solid Mills grew to be one of the country's largest textile firms in the country.

Factory floor

George recalls that as early as second year high school at Xavier, he and his brother Wilfred were already tasked by their father to work in the factory during summers.

His first job, albeit he was not paid for it, took him to the factory floor. He fixed the thread used for weaving textile. He would stay in the factory the whole day.

"No pay but we got free lunch," he recalls. "Wilfred and I did this every summer until college."

While studying Management Engineering at the Ateneo de Manila University, he was placed in the laboratory where he mixed chemicals to arrive at the right colors for the fabrics.

Everything then was done manually. He was supposed to learn from the technicians but he realized that they did not follow a strict formula and simply used their own calculations to arrive at the right mixture.

AS A young student at the Ateneo.

Enterprising mind

After getting his degree, he had no choice but to join the family business in 1981. He was paid P800 a month, "close to minimum wage."

That was the time when Dewey Dee ran off from the country with millions of dollars, which was part of the reason why the country was plunged into a financial crisis. The value of peso dropped and there was a severe shortage of raw materials due to the lack of dollars to pay for imports.

The enterprising George and his brother Wilfred did not let the situation get in the way of earning a living. They would buy used tubes (used to roll the cloths on) for P1 and sell these for P2, while the new ones would sell for P5. There was a demand for the imported ones because these were sturdier.

"I earned three times my salary. Wilfred and I would split the earnings," he says.

He and his brother engaged in other businesses and they were able to accumulate a good sum.

Stock investments

When he left for the US to pursue his MBA at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, he speculated in the stock market. He, his siblings and some suppliers pooled in their resources and bought San Miguel Corp. shares at P11 to P13 per share.

He says he knew the stock market was on the verge of a bull run after the financial crisis of the mid-80s, which saw the end of the 20-year dictatorship of the Marcos regime.

When Corazon C. Aquino became president, the country went through an economic boom.

When they sold their San Miguel shares, they got 10 times their initial investment with the San Miguel shares selling at P100 per share.

"We all earned our first million," George says.

He and his group invested part of the money in real property and club shares such as Capitol Hills, Manila Polo Club, Makati Sports Club and Alabang Country Club.

The company also dabbled in non-performing assets being sold under the Asset Privatization Trust. This was an agency set up in 1986 to sell assets and companies that were turned over to the Philippine National Bank and the Development Bank of the Philippines for failure to pay their debts.

He says he got the idea of buying non-performing assets at a discount then selling them at a gain, from his studies in the US.

TAKING up his MBA at Wharton in the '80s.

GEORGE was a good tennis player who competed in high school and won trophies. He also plays a mean game of squash.

Untimely death

The untimely death of Ramon in 1987 plunged the family business into a financial crisis with banks threatening to foreclose the businesses.

Ramon was murdered because of his textile business. To this day the perpetrators have never been caught. When the family tried to pursue the investigation, their lives were threatened.

Somehow, the four siblings then involved in the business managed to pull through.

"There was no room to fight because the banks were threatening to close out businesses. When we had no money, we had a very harmonious relationship," George says.

George says he pushed for diversification of the business, as there were many of them and he thought it would be good for each to handle a business on his or her own.

At the start, the administrative, legal and financial needs of each new company was centralized under Fil-Pacific. But eventually "as the businesses grew, we created an organization for each business."

But no standards were set as to how each sibling was to run the business. And this may have been the cause of the problem that the Siy siblings are facing now.

Each ran his or her business like his or her own empire. Some refused to make and submit reports regarding the current state of the business. Eventually, this created conflict until communication broke down.

Perhaps, it could have been the way Ramon raised his children.

"My father did not spend that much time with us until about one to two years before he died. He was very focused on the business," comments George.

But he learned from his father important lessons in business.

"What you learn in business is not what you learn in school. Example of this is the importance of psychology—how you deal with your partners," says George.

Another Chinese learning is that the young are pointed to an elder to learn certain skills needed in business—like the art of negotiating. George talks about how, in Chinese family conversations, a relative is extolled for his business acumen.

George, CEO of the Face and Body Rejuvenation Inc., which runs Marie-France, Facial Care and Svenson, believes that the family conglomerate could have been bigger had there been no conflict between the siblings.

But he fervently hopes that they will all agree to go their separate ways in business. And perhaps, become a little bit like the Filipino family who can talk about their children's latest exploits instead of always asking for the bottom line.

First Batangas, then, the world

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

HOTEL Pontefino stands out in the landscape of the port city of Batangas with its European-inspired architecture fused with Filipino and Spanish accents.

And if the hotel owners led by CEO Ricky Gutierrez would have their way, the all-Filipino hotel concept would likewise stand out in the international hotel scene.

"If you look at other countries here in Asia, they have their own hotels that they can be proud of. We want to be that for the Philippines with our hotels grounded on gracious Filipino hospitality," Gutierrez tells the INQUIRER.

Gutierrez proudly says that the Hotel Pontefino is a product of Filipino expertise, which is in big demand in the hotel industry overseas.

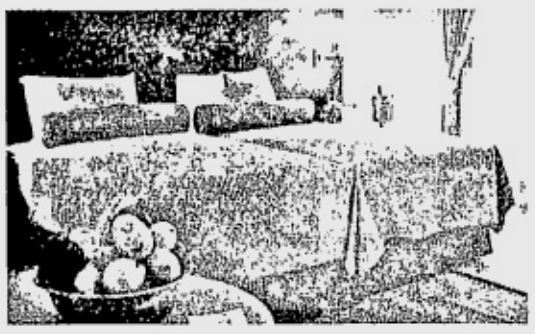
It is owned by Filipinos and manned by the Filipinos, from the general manager to the housekeeping staff. It was also a Filipino, Yoly Zimmer of Design Access Inc., who designed the hotel.

"We envision a branded Filipino hotel chain that can compete with the best and will impart the distinct Filipino traditions of hospitality, impeccable service and warmth," Gutierrez says.

"As our flagship property, Hotel Pontefino Batangas City will pave the way for the realization of this goal, which we intend to take to the international level," he adds.

Hotel Concepts Inc., owners and operators of Hotel Pontefino, chose Batangas City as its pilot site because of the city's potential for development, particularly at the port area.

"We went all over the Philippines and we thought that Batangas City would be perfect because it has good prospects for growth and it is rich in culture and tradition," Gutierrez says.



THE FOUR-STORY Hotel Pontefino is the flagship hotel of all-Filipino group Hotel Concepts Inc. It caters mainly to the port city's business travelers and offers more than just the basic amenities.

The hotel opened its doors to the public in December last year and local travelers and tourists have started to sample Hotel Pontefino's brand of service and facilities that answer the usual needs of business travelers.

And then there is the food.

Gutierrez, who also operates the Chateau 1771 and Sentro restaurants, as well as the 30-year-old Malate Pensionne, sought to bring the best of Filipino, as well as continental food to the hotel patrons.

"From here we are looking at other sites in the Philippines, which could use our brand of service and then overseas. We are confident that we would be like other foreign chains that started small but eventually went big," he says.

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Group aims to produce Math wizards

TAIPAN Tan Yu's daughter Elena Coyiuto has been busy lately with her new venture.

Coyiuto brought the acclaimed Sakamoto method from Japan to the Philippines late last year via her Philippine Academic Center for Enrichment and Self-actualization Inc. (Paces).

Paces hopes to contribute to the betterment of Philippine educational standards, especially in Mathematics, by recognizing and promoting the best junior mathematicians of the country.

Paces recently held the Sakamoto National Math Competition 2004.

The National Champion of each level will be sponsored to Thailand to compete against winners of other countries in the World Math Competition 2004 this coming March 12-14. They will be staying at the Sofitel Central Plaza, where the World Math Competition will be held.

To know more about the Sakamoto Math Method or the World Math Competition, please visit www.sakamoto.net or www.mathscompetition.com.

Sakamoto Classes are held on weekdays and on Saturdays. Sakamoto Math centers are located at Ortigas, Greenhills, Makati, Escolta and Quezon City. For inquiries, please call 633-6919, 722-1740 or 247-3299.

The administrative office of Paces Sakamoto Philippines is located at Unit 207 AIC Gold Tower, Emerald Ave. corner Garnet Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The winners of the competition for Grade Level 4 are: 1st place—Aldric Cristoval C. Reyes (Chiang Kai Shek College); 2nd place—Ithran Issachar G. Kho (Jubilee Christian Academy); 3rd place—Immanuel V. Encarnacion (Colegio San Agustin-Biñan); 4th place—Judith Charmaine Rosette (Diliman Preparatory School); 5th place—Rex S. Zhang (Grace Christian High School).

The winners for the Grade 5 level are: 1st place—Jose Enrico DL. Leceta (De La Salle Santiago Zobel School); 2nd place—Earl John Chua (Grace Christian High School); 3rd place—Marvin Jerome C. Obrero (Colegio San Agustin); 4th place—Vernon Gutierrez (Grace Christian High School); 5th place—Justin Jadrien M. Estrella (De La Salle Santiago Zobel School).

The winners for the Grade 6 level are: 1st place—John Bernard C. Ong (Grace Christian High School); 2nd place—Stephanie Anne A. Oliveros (De La Salle Santiago Zobel School); 3rd place—Paul Julian G. Hao (Chiang Kai Shek College); 4th place—Francesca Choi (Chiang Kai Shek College); 5th place—Ian Limuel E. Dimaandal (De La Salle Santiago Zobel School).

Marketing talk turns 50

THE "MARKETING Strategy and Plans" seminar of Mansmith & Fielders will go on its 50th run on Feb. 18 and 19 at the ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City.

Among its graduates are the brand marketing professionals, product and sales executives, advertising managers from Unilab, AC Nielsen, San Miguel, Avon, Du Pont, Goldilocks and Globe.

The deadline for registration for the Marketing strategy and Plans seminar is on Feb. 13.

For group discounts and special rates, contact 722-2318 / 727-7142.

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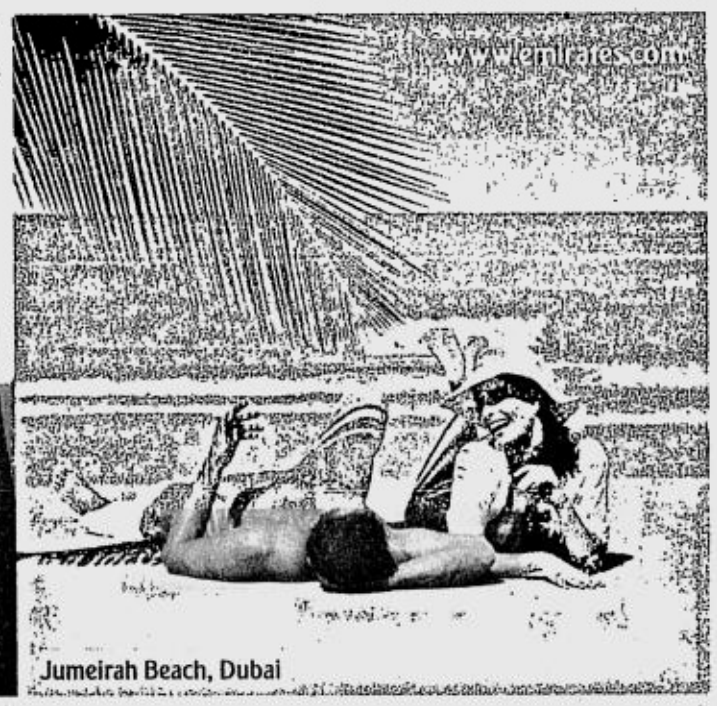
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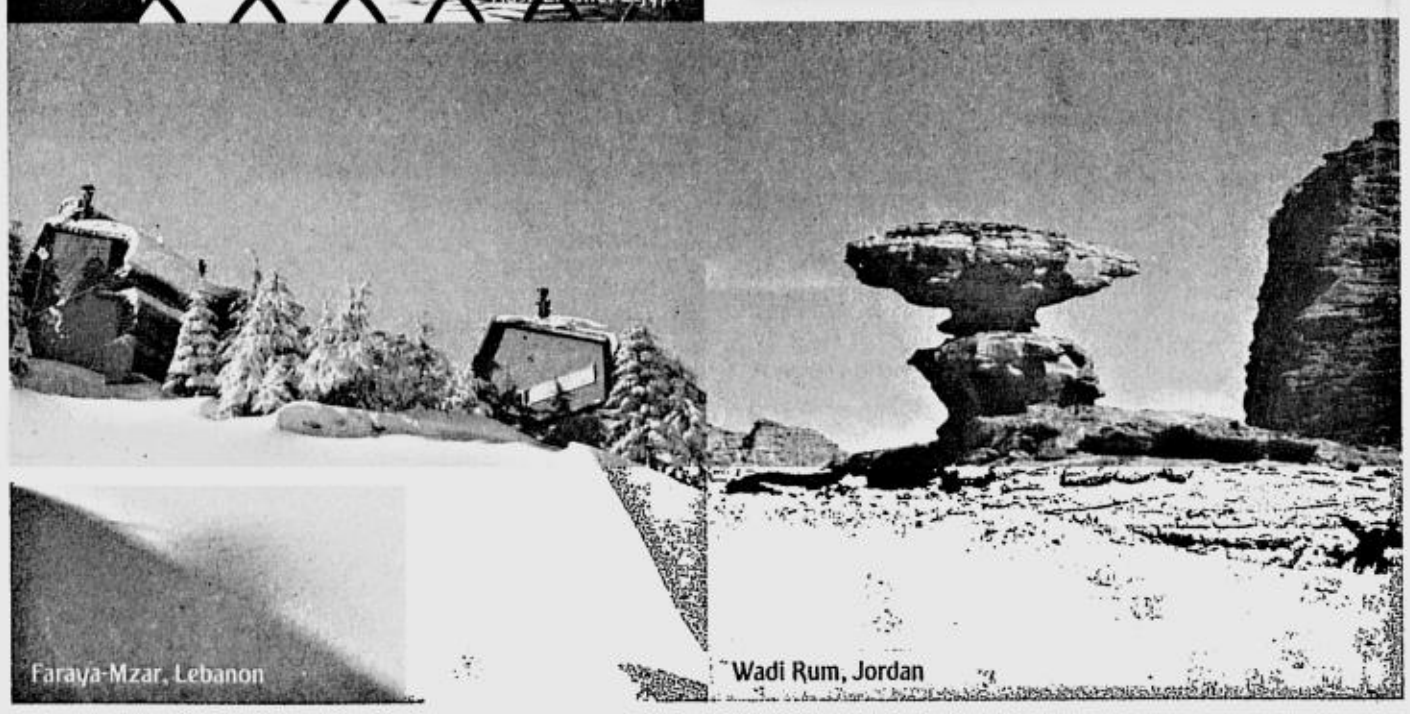
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PARANAQUE CITY	MIN BID
1. H&L/# 37 A. Zobel cor. V Buencamino Sts., BF Executive Vill L.A.-363 / F.A.-192	3,128,000
2 Condo / U-21-D, Cleveland Twr Asiaworld City / FA-363 94	9,401,000
MAKATI CITY	**MIN BID**
3. Condo Unit / Unit-1407 & 1408 14/F, BSA Mansion, Benavidez St, Legaspi Vill /Total FA- 71.733	4,140,000
Kingswood Condominium	
4 Penthse/Unit P2F,Twr-B, 28th & 29th flr, V Cruz Ext'n / FA-154	7,207,200
5. Penthse/Unit P3F,Twr-B, 26th & 27th flr V Cruz Ext'n / FA-154	7,207,200
QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
6 2 Sty Res'l / Lot-1-A, Unit-B Agnes St, Ideal Subd, Commonwealth, LA-80 / FA-145	1,849,000
7. Resl. Apt-10 Dr, 2-Sty / Castro Compound, Sta Lucia, Novaliches LA-250 / FA-369	2,248,000
8 4 Sty H&L / # 394-A Sangandaan N'liches LA-218 / FA-721	4,100,000
PASIG (ORTIGAS CENTER)	**MIN BID**
9 Condo / Unit – 2802, AIC Gold Twr, Emerald Ave / FA-187 17	6,500,000
ANTIPOLO, RIZAL	**MIN BID**
10 Lot-20 Blk -17, Jerusalem St Palmera Hills-5, Ulan /LA-120	399,000
11. Lot-79 Blk -38, Forest Hills Subd, Brgy San Isidro /LA-523	1,200,000
12. Lot / L-47 B-18 Park Ridge Est.-3 (via Valley Golf) LA-811	2,056,000
13 Lot / L-21 Blk-2 / LA – 355 Cottonwood Hts , Brgy Bayugo	1,641,000
14. Lot / L-17 Blk-1,Beverly St, Sta Barbara-1, Luxury Est. Mission Hills, Brgy Colaque/ LA – 1,021	2,750,000
CAVITE (Springville Subd, Molino)	**MIN BID**
15. L-10-B B-2, Rimas St , West Phase – 1 / L.A. – 71	291,000
16. L-20-A B-2, Rimas St / L.A.- 75	308,000
17. L-4 B-2, Chico St., West Phase – 2 / L.A. - 75	308,000
18. L24 B-13 Agoho St., Central Phase – 2 / L.A. – 70	319,000
19. L-11-A B-22, Dayap St., West Phase – 2 / L.A. - 80	328,000
20 L-3-B B-10, Pina St., West Phase – 1 / L.A. - 85	348,000
21. L-11-B B-22, Dayap St., West Phase – 2 / L.A. - 120	492,000
22. L-3 B-2, Chico St , West Phase – 2 / L.A. - 183	750,000
23 L-8 B-12, (near Agoho St), Central Phase-2 / L.A. – 180	820,000
CAVITE	**MIN BID**
24 H&L / Lot-85 Blk -3, Vanda St , South Garden Subd , Saltran Dasmarinas LA- 90 / FA- 36	365,000
25 H&L / L-13 Blk -43, City Hms Resortville Brgy Lancaan, Dasmarinas LA- 35 / FA- 25	168,000
26. T'hse /L-2 Blk-23, Alicante St, Town & Country West, Molino Bacoor LA-56 / FA-56 70	581,000
27. L-16 B-1, Ph -1, Mla South Woods Res'l Estate, Baybay, Carmona / LA-1,224	4,604,000
28. Res'l lot / Lots 5486-A-6, 7 & 8 Buhay na Tubig, Brgy Anabu Imus / Nat L.A - 6 556 40	5,311,000
TAYTAY, RIZAL	**MIN BID**
29 2 Sty Bldg / Lot 22 & 24, B-2, Rd lot-4, Ciudad Del Sol-2, Sta Ana LA-137 50 / FA-65	732,000
30 2 Sty Res'l / Lot-1 Melon cor. Guava Sts , Dividend Homes San Juan LA-185 / FA- 333	1,550,000
MUNTINLUPA – Victoria Homes	**MIN BID**
31 L-125 B-3-A Almond St/LA-436	872,000
32 L-127 B-3-A,Almond St/LA-459	918,000
33 L-19 B-3-I Jasmine St /LA-713	1,426,000
CALOOCAN CITY	**MIN BID**
34 Res'l lot / Lot-5 Blk-5 Myrna Subd Brgy Llano/Net LA-1,398	1,804,000
VALENZUELA	**MIN BID**
35 2 Sty Bldg/L-23-A-4, N Urutia St, Palasan LA-670 / FA-894	2,070,000
36 Lot/L-551-A-2-A-3, Pineda Compd,Bonifacio St ,Canumay – East / LA - 1,114	2,241,000
37 3-Dr /1-sty Apt w/ warehouse # 92 G Marcelo St , Maysan, Val. L.A - 500 / F.A - 386	2,500,000
38. 2 Sty. Hse & lot / Lot-1, 2 & 3 Blk-7 cor of Aster, Wistaria & Forsythia Sts , De Castro Subd Bagbaguin / T.L.A- 650 / FA- 547	7,000,000
LAGUNA – Poblacion, Cabuyao	**MIN BID**
39 2 Sty Thse / Unit-2 Bellbart Elsol Villas Thms LA-54/FA-55	615,000
40 2 Sty Thse / Unit-4 Bellbart Elsol Villas Thms LA-54/FA-55	615,000
41. H&L w/ S pool/L-10-C-6, Pansol Calamba LA-1 141 / FA-336	4,095,000
TARLAC CITY	**MIN BID**
42 Agro - Ind'l Lot / Lot 3871-D S. Maragul, Tibag / LA-10 001	2,652,000
ANGONO, RIZAL	**MIN BID**
43 Lot / L-6 Blk-2 Mills St, Sta Monica Classic Estates, Ph-3 Mission Hills, Mababang Parang (via Antipolo) / LA-540	1,677,000

RESIDENTIAL

CABANATUAN CITY, N.ECIJA (# 529 Purok Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili)	MIN BID
44 Lot 3-A-6/LA-2,071/NLA-1,820 62	280,000
45 Lot 3-A-5/LA-2,071/NLA-1,847 61	281,000
46 Lot 3-A-4/LA-2,071/NLA-1,847 88	281,000
47 Lot 3-A-3/LA-2,071/NLA-1,848 17	281,000
48 Lot 3-A-2/LA-2,071/NLA-1,848 36	281,000
49 Lot 3-A-1/LA-2,071/NLA-1,839 86	281,000
50 Lot 2-B/LA-2,619/NLA-2,338 68	902,000
51. Lot 2-A/LA-2 822/NLA-2,535 36	972,000
52 Lot 2-D/LA-2,250/NLA-2,006 08	1,315,000
53 Lot 2-C/LA-2,616/NLA-2,345 81	1,529,000
54 Lot 2-F/LA-2,250/NLA-2,008 88	1,878,000
55 Lot 2-E/LA-2,249/NLA-2,007 48	1,878,000
56. 2 Storey resi / Lot 2-G LA-2,384/NLA-1,861 9/FA-138	2,815,000
Orchard Res'l. Estates and Golf & Country Club, Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite	
FAIRWAY LOTS	**MIN BID**
57 L - 31 Blk – 30 / L.A. – 858	3,261,000
58. L - 17 Blk – 10 / L.A. – 1,034	3,930,000
59. L - 52 Blk – 17 / L.A. – 1,130	4,294,000
NON – FAIRWAY LOTS	**MIN BID**
60. L – 35 Blk - 37 / L.A. - 687	2,061,000
61 L - 14 Blk - 16 / L.A. - 828	2,484,000
62 L – 03 Blk - 43 / L.A. - 855	2,565,000
STA. MARIA, BULACAN – SUNRAYS VILL.	
63 Lot / L – 38 Blk - 5 / L.A - 40	60,000
64 Lot / L – 39 Blk - 5 / L.A - 108	162,000
65 Lot / L – 40 Blk - 5 / L.A - 116	174,000
66 Lot / L – 50 Blk - 5 / L.A - 40	60,000
67. Lot / L – 58 Blk - 5 / L.A - 48	72,000
68 Lot / L – 59 Blk - 5 / L.A - 67	100,500
69 Lot / L – 70 Blk - 5 / L.A - 67	130,500
70 Lot / L – 71 Blk - 5 / L.A - 67	100,500
71 Lot / L – 72 Blk - 5 / L.A - 40	60,000
72 Lot / L – 73 Blk - 5 / L.A - 40	60,000
73 Lot / L – 74 Blk - 5 / L.A - 40	60,000
74 Lot / L – 75 Blk - 5 / L.A - 40	60,000
75 Lot / L – 76 Blk - 5 / L.A - 40	60,000
76 Lot / L – 77 Blk - 5 / L.A - 40	60,000
77 Lot / L – 78 Blk - 5 / L.A - 40	60,000
78 Lot / L – 79 Blk - 5 / L.A - 40	60,000
79 Lot / L – 37 Blk - 1 / L.A - 70	105,000
80 Lot / L – 38 Blk - 1 / L.A - 70	105,000
81 Lot / L – 39 Blk - 1 / L.A - 70	105,000
82 Lot / L – 40 Blk - 1 / L.A - 70	105,000
83 Lot / L – 41 Blk - 1 / L.A - 70	105,000
84 Lot / L – 42 Blk - 1 / L.A - 95	142,500

COMMERCIAL

VALENZUELA CITY	MIN BID
85 Ind'l Lot w/ Warehse / # 47 Maysan Rd , Brgy Maysan T.L.A- 7,871 / T.F.A- 7,040	56,396,000
86. Ind'l Lot / Lot-1065-B-2-C-2 Plastic City Comp'd , Brgy Maysan LA-400 (near gate-5)	680,000
87. Ind'l Lot w/ 2 Warehse (1st & 1st) Barracks, Canteen, Guardhse. Lot1075-D-1-C, Plastic City # 6 T Santiago St, Canumay-West LA- 9,923 / FA- 7,096	54,700,000
88 Ind'l Lot w/ 3 Res'l Bldgs /Lot-382-G, Plastic City Housing Canumay LA-25,798/FA-5,310	43,864,000
89 Ware'hse / Lot-13 Templanza St. Don Pedro Vill, Marulas Val / L.A - 2,540 / F.A - 3,314	12,200,000
MAKATI	**MIN BID**
90 Lot/# 3904 Quingua St. Brgy. Pinagkaisahan / LA-612	12,240,000
91 Condo/ 5/F Millenium Plaza Eduque St. / F.A.- 261 24	12,436,000
92 Lot /Lot-1-B & Lot-2-B Buendia cor. Marconi St / TLA-472	15,200,000
QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
93 3 Sty Bldg /# 500 Quirino Hi-way, Brgy Bagbag Novaliches LA-180 / FA-488	6,300,000
94 Whse /# 185 Roosevelt Ave SFDM /TLA- 5,641/TFA-3,454	140,000,000
MANILA	**MIN BID**
95 Dormitory-3 Sty / # 352 M F Jhocson St , Sampaloc L.A - 489 3 / T.F.A - 1,620 5	15,750,000
96. 3 Sty. Bldg / Anacleto St., (back of # 1933 Rizal Ave) L.A. – 294 / F.A. - 810	14,640,000
97. 2/F KP Twr , CM Recto Ave Cor Juan Luna St / FA-656	23,500,000
PASIG, ORTIGAS CENTER	**MIN BID**
98. Offc Unit/ Unit # 2004, OMM Citra Bldg, San Miguel Ave (w/ parking) / FA-153 64	4,910,000
CABANATUAN CITY, N.ECIJA (# 529 Purok Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili)	**MIN BID**
99 Agri lot /Lot 3-B/ NLA-37,041	1,656,000
100 Comml. lot w/ Whse & Offc Lot 2-H / LA-2,810 NLA-2 260 67 / FA – 580	3,569,000
TARLAC CITY	**MIN BID**
101 Lot/L-4-C, Rizal St / L.A -759	6,475,000
102 Lot/L-4-B, Panganiban cor. Rizal Sts. / L.A - 1,102	9,402,000
103 Lot/L-4-A, Panganiban cor. Rizal Sts. / L.A - 1,120	9,554,000
TAGUIG	**MIN BID**
104 Indl lot/L-2-B-1-A-1,Perfecto Drive Bagumbayan/ LA-2 920	9,200,000
SARIAYA, QUEZON PROVINCE	**MIN BID**
105 Agri lot w/ resi H&L Whse & Piggery/Lot 6181-A-5-A-1-A-1-I, Psd 4A-001202,Sampaloc TLA -101 038 65 / TFA -9 277	40,548,000

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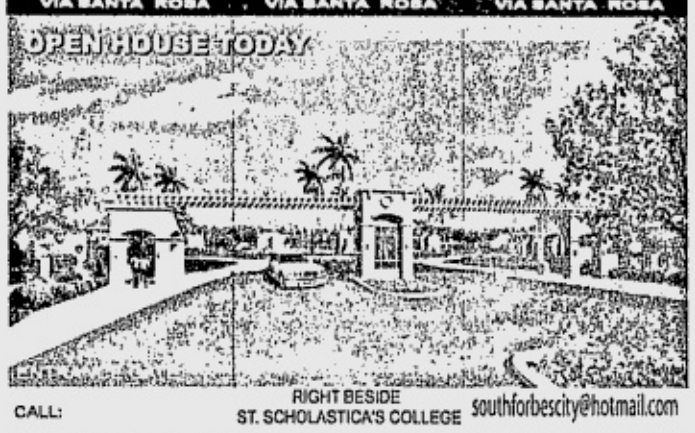

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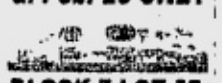

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ADELIA M. VILLAROMAN was extrajudicially settled with self-adjudication by her sole heir Rolando M. Villaroman per Doc No 320 Page No 64 Book No II Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty. Natalia F. Oliverio of Manila (PDI-Feb. 1, 8 & 15, 2004)

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Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that **MR. ALEJANDRO CATABAY ALCOBER**, whose picture appears above is no longer connected with **MULTI-MACH INTERNATIONAL INC.**, He left the company last November 25, 2003 without prior clearance and turnover/ liquidation of collections/cash advances and was eventually terminated with the cause effective above stated date. The public is hereby warned that any and all transaction entered with by Mr. Alejandro Catabay Alcober on behalf of Multi-Mach International Inc. shall not be honored.

(PDI – February 8, 2004)

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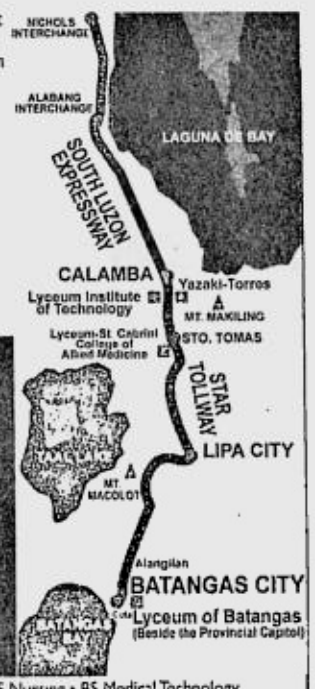
8:00-9:00 Registration
9:00-9:30 Invocation **Mrs. Esmenia R. Javier**, VP for Administration, Lyceum of Batangas
National Anthem **Lyceum Music Ensemble**
Welcome & Opening Remarks **Mrs. Fe R. Medina**, VP for Student Services/Registrar, Lyceum of Batangas
Inspirational Talk **Hon. Peter P. Laurel**, Vice-Governor, Batangas Province
President, Lyceum of Batangas
9:30-9:55 *Unemployment in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia and the New Commitment of Lyceum School System in Industry-Academe Linkages* **Joselito B. Gutierrez**, Director, Lyceum School System
9:55-10:20 *Industry-Academe Linkage in Region IV: Progress Report covering the period 1998-2002* **Mrs. Virginia C. Anonuevo**, Education Specialist II, Commission on Higher Education IVA
10:20-10:30 Snacks
Launching of Lyceum Electronic Employment Database System
10:30-10:55 *DOLE in a Nutshell and Present Employment Needs in Region IV and in the Country* **Hon. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas**, Secretary, Department of Labor & Employment
10:55-11:20 *Present Employment Opportunities Abroad Through POEA* **Carmelita S. Dimzon** Deputy Administrator, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration
11:20 - 11:45 *SPI Healthcare Documentation Inc. - Company Talk* **Alethea P. Ginez** Corporate Recruitment Manager, SPI Technologies Inc.
11:45-12:30 Ribbon-Cutting by **Hon. Sec. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas** to be assisted by **Hon. Peter P. Laurel**
Lunch
- Open Forum **Dr. Flora V. Javier**, VP for Academic Affairs, Lyceum of Batangas
- Recap & Resolution **Dr. Remedios T. Magnaye**, Alumni Officer/ABOA Faculty, Lyceum of Batangas
- Awarding of Plaque and Token of Appreciation

Recruitment & Exhibit Proper • 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
• Arsenio Laurel Memorial Sports Arena & Sotero H. Laurel Bldg.



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Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
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For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 09192885303) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 09163021735) with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to ner@phc.gov.ph

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- ✔ Preferably male

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Due to the urgency of the requirement, writer-applicants are requested to please report with CV and sample works to 7C, 134 Tuscan Building, V.A. Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makati City (look for Judy or Brad), Monday to Wednesday, Feb. 9-11, from 1:00 pm–6:00 pm only. Applicants to the second position are requested to send first CV and three verifiable references and corresponding phone numbers to info@geisermuelang.com, or at the aforementioned address.

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Capt. ALONZO G. SIMBRE JR. PN (Ret)
December 31, 1937 – February 4, 2004

His wife **FELY** and daughters **BELLE** and **ARLENE** request for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul. His remains lie in state at the NBC Mortuary, Sangley Pt., Cavite City. A Necrological Mass will be offered on Monday, February 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the La Naval Chapel. Interment will be on Tuesday, February 10 at The Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.''

John 3:16

Our Dearly Beloved Mother

ENCARNACION CAÑEDO BALINGHASAY

Peacefully joined our Creator and husband, Rufino, on February 6, 2004 at the age of 89.

Her bereaved children **Josefina, Jose & Lilia, Adelaida & Peter, Teofilo & Lucille, Nanette & Greg;** grandchildren **Eric Rufino, Ma. Elisa, Peter Erick, Patricia & Luis, Caroline, John Martin, Ramon Jose, Raymund, Niño Rufino, Nicholas, Marie Eugenie, Paolo Jose, Angelo Jesus, Clara Victoria, Mariaya Kim & Joanne Ruth.**

Her body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Inc., Sucat, Parañaque City. Interment to be announced later.

Message of Thanks

The bereaved family, wife **Zeny; Anthony & Lorie, Marivic & Jaime, Patchie & Boy, Jojo, Jing & Jun;** grandchildren & relatives of the late

SALVADOR B. MORABE

who joined his Creator on January 29, 2004

wish to convey their heartfelt gratitude to all those who paid their last respect & grieved with them, offered masses & prayers, sent flowers, messages of sympathy, kept vigil, were present at the Neurological Services, Novena Masses, funeral rites & who in various generous ways gave them comfort at the time of their great loss & sorrow.

GUILLERMO "Billy" C. LLANA

June 25, 1956 – January 29, 2004

Died in Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S.A.

His bereaved mother **Taciana C. Llana**; brothers, sisters & in-laws **Rudy & Norma, Peewee & Nilda, Joe & Lilia, Viging, Toti & Vilma, Jovencio & Shirley, Ben & Rose, Romy, Emelyn, Gina & Aileen**; nephews, nieces and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will lie in state at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Batangas City, February 9, 2004.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 12, 2004 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Batangas Catholic Cemetery.

Always caring....

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

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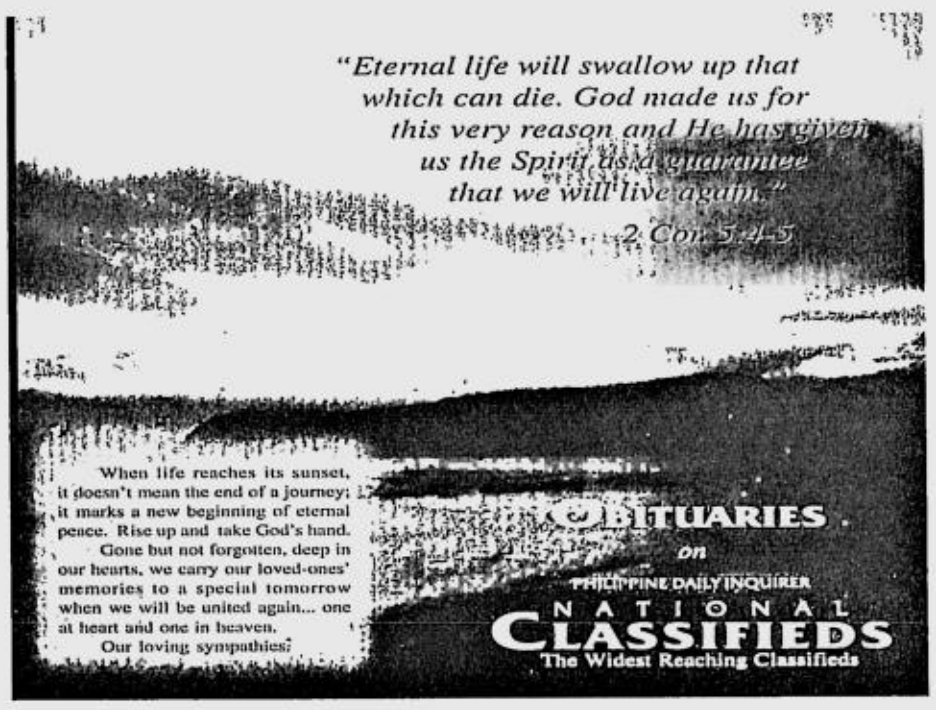

ADORACION REYES-BERNARDEZ

September 6, 1939 – February 6, 2004
of Cabanatuan City & Bucay, Abra

Her bereaved husband **ENGR. RUBEN F. BERNARDEZ**; aunt **Felisa P. Reyes**; sisters and brother **Trinidad+, Consorcia, Julieta, Severino, Isabelita** and **Digna**; brothers-in-law **Fernando B. Santiago+** and **Luis R. Banzon**; nephews **Joselito R. Santiago, Jose Luis, Jose Onofre, Jose Antonio** and **Joseph Reuben Banzon**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Padre Crisostomo (Lote), Cabanatuan City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 10, 2004 at the Cabanatuan City Public Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Nicolas de Tolentine Cathedral, Cabanatuan City.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bataan
Municipality of Bagac
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN

INVITATION TO BID
(IRB)

February 8, 2004
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the ARCDPII and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contracts located at the Barangay Banawang, Municipality of Bagac, Province of Bataan. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guideline: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Bagac, Province of Bataan and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Rehabilitation of the 2.557 kilometers of Masula Farm to Market Road under Contract Number RIRR 03 009 01 BAG-B.

Project Duration: 76 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents: PHP 2,000.00
Minimum Bid Security: PHP 66,000.00
Bid Closing Date: March 10, 2004, Time: 10:00 a.m.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Item No.	Scope of Works		Quantity	Unit
10	Clearing and Grubbing		7,671.00	Sq. Mtrs.
20	Aggregate Sub-base Cour	se	1,765.46	Cu. Mtrs.
21	Aggregate Base Course		1,140.00	Cu. Mtrs.
31	Portland Cement Concrete Pavement (3,500psi)		2,633.50	Sq. Mtrs.
50(1)	Installation of 900mm dia,	RCPC	35.00	Ln. Mtrs.
51	Grouted Riprap (w/ Concre	te Lining)	4,980.00	Ln. Mtrs.

Minimum Equipments Required

Bulldozer (1 unit) - owned; Road Roller Vibratory (9 ton min. 1 unit) - owned; Road Grader (1 unit) - owned; Concrete Transit Mixer (2 units) - owned; 1-Bagger Concrete Mixer (2 units) - owned; Vibratory Plate Compactor (1 unit); Backhoe with enloader (1 unit) - owned or lease; Loader (1 unit) - owned: Dump Truck (4 units) - owned; Water truck (1 unit) - owned; survey instruments-leased/owned.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Bagac, Province of Bataan starting **February 9, 2004** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP2,000.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on **February 19, 2004** at 10:00 a.m.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security deposit of PHP66,000.00 in form; Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Bagac, Province of Bataan, on or before the Bid closing date on **March 10, 2004** at 10:00 a.m. at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDPII of Bagac, Bataan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **MS. EUGENIA C. GALVEZ**
Chairman LGU-BAC-ARCDPII

(PDI - Feb. 8, 2004)

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At: LBL Warehouse, Light Industry & Science Park I, Cabuyao, Laguna

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AIR COMPRESSOR - KAISER SIGMA SK19 Air Compressor
TRANSFORMERS - WESTINGHOUSE 150 KVA, 112.5KVA; (2) PHILTRANS 100KVA; (2) CHALLENGER 45KVA; TRANSMAG/DELTA 10KVA
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On View: Wednesday 11th February 2004 from 9:00am to 5:00pm & morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php20,000 (upon registration).
Please bring valid ID to be presented during registration

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Palawan Tropical Forestry Protection Programme
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan Philippines

The Palawan Tropical Forestry Protection Programme (PTFPP) intends to award a

SUPPLY FOR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) SOFTWARES

Publication reference: RIV # 14668 / Tender # 0004

In Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines with the Assistance from Project No. ALA/93/37 of the European Communities. The tender Dossier is available from PTFPP Building, Sports Complex Road, Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, 5300 Philippines.

Deadline for submission of Tenders is 5:00 p.m., 18 February 2004.

PTFPP is a Programme of the Palawan Council of Sustainable Development Staff in Partnership with the European Union and the Philippine Government

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2004

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
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Editor Aries Espinosa

Inadequate control can lead to diabetes complications

MANY diabetics realize that neglecting to control the blood sugar level when one still has no symptoms can lead to irreversible complications later on.

Yoly R. is a 54-year-old diabetic who thought that having diabetes, which she was diagnosed to have 10 years ago, was no big deal. After all, she felt no symptoms that could be attributed to it. She did not comply strictly with her medication intake. A year ago, she was told by her doctor to have serious kidney problems. Three months ago, she had a non-healing wound on her left leg which became gangrenous, and her doctors had no choice but to amputate the leg.

Scientific data have shown that when so-called glycation products accumulate in patients with persistent elevation of the blood sugar, injury to various tissues of the body develop, leading to complications such as heart attack, stroke, kidney failure, disease of the leg arteries, blurring of vision and nerve complications. These can either disable or kill the patient. Blood sugar control is therefore an important goal in the treatment of diabetics.

Several studies have shown that patients taking the combination of rosiglitazone and metformin achieve better blood sugar control. The complimentary mechanism of these two drugs could help people manage their type 2 diabetes longer. Rosiglitazone targets insulin resistance, an underlying cause of type 2 diabetes while metformin works to reduce the amount of blood sugar (glucose) produced by the liver. The combination targets core metabolic defects to help achieve and sustain better blood sugar control than metformin alone. When combined, these two medications significantly lower blood sugar more effectively than metformin.

The fixed-dose of rosiglitazone and metformin for the treatment of type 2 diabetes offers a new option for millions of people with the disease. It has already been approved by the U.S Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of type 2 diabetes.

The combination of these two drugs in one convenient pill is now available in the Philippines. GlaxoSmithKline, makers of the drug and one of the world's largest research-based pharmaceutical companies, is committed to developing novel diabetes therapies to treat a disease that has escalated to epidemic proportion in the country and throughout the world.

Experts in diabetes are setting more stringent standards that reflect the importance of maintaining tight glucose control. The United Kingdom Prospective Diabetes Study (UKPDS) showed that tight blood sugar control can delay or prevent the complications of type 2 diabetes. The study also showed that multiple drugs are needed in order to control the disease and prevent serious complications.

Research has demonstrated that rosiglitazone and metformin in combination significantly reduces and maintains blood sugar levels for at least two years. The combination has also been associated with a low risk of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar).

Rosiglitazone plus metformin is indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to reduce insulin resistance and improve glycemic control in patients with type 2 diabetes when metformin or rosiglitazone alone fail to do so.

Patients with type 2 diabetes should consult their doctors to learn more about these new treatments.

METRO DRUG STRENGTHENS PARTN ERSHIP WITH AIR21

Metro Drug Inc, a regional distributor of pharmaceutical and healthcare products, recently renewed its ties with Air21, the total logistics solutions provider, and signed another yearlong agreement of committed cargo and logistics service. Present during the contract signing were (from left) Ashley Antonio, Metro Drug VP for distribution; David Ames, Metro Drug president; L ito Alvarez, Air21 president and COO; Cristina M ontalvo, Air21 VP for operations and Reuben P angan, Air21 VP for sales, marketing and cust omer service. Standing (from left) were Eugene de Asis, Metro Drug warehouse manager; Irene G rivas, Air21 brand manager; Bob Rubio, Air21 ac count manager and Tobby Medenilla, Air21 logi stics manager.

PALMOLIVE LAUNCHES PALMOLIVE AROMATHERAPY

Palmolive, a pioneer in personal care products, recently launched its latest breakthrough with the introduction of Palmolive Aromatherapy. Colgate-Palmolive Philippines Marketing Director Jose Manuel Estrada (in photo) was in attendance to deliver his welcome remarks during the product launch at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Palmolive Aromatherapy range of products includes a shampoo, shower gel and talc, which come in two variants: Anti-stress and Energy. Each product is enriched with a blend of pure aromatic oils like lavender, lemongrass, green tea and grapefruit to soothe and revitalize the body. With Palmolive Aromatherapy, women everywhere can now reenergize and awaken their spirits so they can face life's challenges comfortably, confidently and beautifully.

MFI HONOR GRADUATES

Sixteen scholars of Meralco Foundation Institute who belong to the 18th batch of graduates (rites held recently at the Aguinaldo Theater with Senator Loren Legarda as keynote speaker), received their medals for academic excellence during the affair. They are F. Cruz, J. dela Torre, V. Dionisio (electrical technology); J.A. Año, J.E. Arevalo, M.F. Caagbay (electronics); D. Abanillo, J. Dañes, F. de Chavez, A. de Sena, M. Fabela, H. Manalo, L. Miranda, P. Pangilinan (instrumentation); A. Depusoy, J.P. Mares and M. Morales (IT). Standing at right (before the microphone) is the head of the institute, Manolo Santos. This year's commencement exercises coincided with MFI's celebration of its 30th anniversary.

NCWP OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FOR 2003-2005 INDUCTION

The National Council of Women of the Philippines (NCWP) officers and members of the board for 2003-2005 recently held their induction with Senator Sergio Osmeña at the Philippine Senate. The newly elected officers/board members are all recognized women leaders who renewed their commitment to the achievement of the NCWP vision to integrate women into the mainstream of development. Inductees include (from left): Dr. Cording Pascual, director representing the National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines (NFWC); Roselyn Magsaysay, PRO; Dr. Monette Bustamante-Rañeses, auditor; Elsie Brandes de Veyra, assistant treasurer; Charing Villar, treasurer; Gov. Baby Ayani-Ortiz, secretary; Rosalind Wee, vice president for Mindanao; Dr. Tesy Quirino, vice president for the Visayas; Ma. Paz Herrera, vice president for Luzon; lawyer Amy Wong, vice president for NCR; Rita Cruz Carlos, vice president at large; and Comm. Myrna Yao, president. The institutional board members not in photo are Cynthia Zagala representing the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP), Dr. Amelou Benitez-Reyes representing the Philippine Women's University (PWU) and Dr. Josefina Dineros-Pineda representing the Young Women's Christian Association of the Philippines (YMCA).

Pami breathes new life to GMFI

YEAR 2003 ended on a high note for the GSIS "Kinabukasan" Mutual Fund Inc (GMFI). A perennial cellar dweller among 10 balanced mutual funds being offered to the public, it has managed to land in 4th place due to a masterful turn-around on performance maneuvered by its new fund manager - Philam Asset Management Inc (Pami).

It could still be recalled that State owned GSIS made a strategic decision in May of 2003 to acquire the asset management services of the most dynamic fund management company in the Philippines (Pami) to rehabilitate its failing mutual fund - (GMFI).

That decision in May proved valuable for Pami confirmed its worth as a formidable strength in 3rd party asset management by breathing new life to the GSIS "Kinabukasan" Mutual Fund. After 3 years (2000-2002) of negative performance the GMFI came out with a positive 18.69 percent yield from the time Pami stood as its fund manager in May until December 2003. This reversal is what mainly contributed to the positive 23.14 percent annual yield that GMFI posted for 2003.

For 2004, PamI has its target set at increasing GMFI's assets under management by 1 Billion pesos and will continue overseeing the investment portfolio of the "Kinabukasan" Fund. Pami still remains firm in its commitment to bring the tradition of active fund management and better yields to the GMFI.

BUDDHA CARE ACADEMY, 3RD PLACE IN LION DANCE COMPETITION

The Buddha Care Academy won 3rd runner-up in the recently held Lion Dance Competition in Binondo. The event was sponsored by Gerry Chua of Eng Bee Tin Chinese Deli in cooperation with Mayor Lito Atienza, Councilor Miles Roces, Chinatown Development Authority, Linguam Athletic Federation and Binondo and Paco Volunteer Brigade.

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. MMD-TRANSCO 2004-007
PD Ref. No.: PB040114-PP0003
PR No.: ATO-03-005002

1. The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (TRANSCO-BAC) - HEAD OFFICE, invites local bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility who are:
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
   b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract: Provided, however, That Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
   e. Cooperatives duly, registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
2. Procurement of:
   1 Lot - Supply & Delivery of Jet A1 Aviation Fuel (for One Year)
3. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be specified in the attached Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents.
   The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be Bid is P10,304,470.00 to be sourced from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo.
4. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting February 08, 2004 to March 08, 2004 at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) per set.
5. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on February 26, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the Admin Conference Room, G/F TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before 10:00 a.m. of March 09, 2004 at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
7. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
8. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposals is most advantageous to the government.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO G. LABAYANI
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - Feb 8 & 14, 2004)

Citystate Savings Bank launches Citystate JCB Card

WEIGH the endless possibilities of cashless spending. Citystate Savings Bank introduces the Citystate JCB Credit Card.

This privilege card is widely accepted in over 28,000 establishments nationwide and in 189 countries worldwide. It has unique features and benefits ranging from flexible and light payment terms, a free personal accident insurance worth up to five times your previous month's purchases, a free travel insurance worth P1M, high cash advance, a 24-hour customer service number for your convenience, and settlement in either local or foreign currency, at your option, when used abroad. As an added bonus, there is no membership or joining fee for the Citystate JCB card.

Citystate JCB Card offers a very light payment scheme with a minimum payment of 5 percent of the total amount due. No interest is charged if the amount is settled in full. You can pay 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 or 24 months at very low interest rates. The dual peso and dollar billing facility gives you the option to pay your bills in local or foreign currency allowing you to maximize the current exchange rates upon payment. When you need more cash, simply avail of cash advance at any BancNet or Megalink ATM's nationwide or at any JCB Plaza in other countries. Supplementary cards are also available upon request.

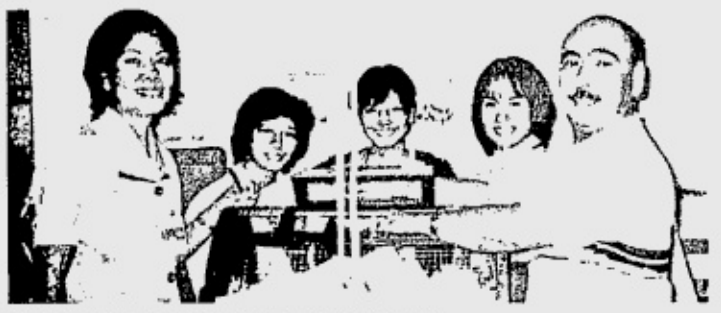
Citystate JCB Cardholders are entitled to join the on-going "JCB Charge Spree, Cash for Free" raffle promo which runs from Nov. 1, 2003 until March 31, 2004 for a chance to win P50,000 free credit. There will be 5 monthly raffle draws with 8 winners of P50,000 every last week of each month (except December) until April 2004. For a minimum purchase of P1,000, the cardholder is entitled to one raffle entry. To participate, text JCB <NAME> <M.I.> <LASTNAME> <1ST 8 DIGITS OF CREDIT CARD> and send to 2966 for Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers and 3996 for Smart and Talk Text Subscribers. Registration is free of charge.

For more information about the Citystate JCB Credit card, visit any Citystate Savings bank branch or visit its website at www.citystatesavings.com.

Publicly listed Citystate Savings Bank is a Filipino-Singaporean owned company, operated by a consortium which includes the Fortune Insurance Group, and the Citystate Management Group Holdings Pte. Ltd of Singapore, a subsidiary of Liberty Mutual Insurance, one of the top 5 biggest and oldest companies in the United States.

MEDIAPOOL SHARES WITH THE PGH

MediaPool Inc recently held its first gift-giving project at the PGH Pediatric ward and Cancer wards. The outdoor advertising specialist gave out food and grocery items to some 120 pediatric and cancer ward patients. Shown are MediaPool Inc's president Joel Callao and its general manager Irma Bernabe.



MY SPECIAL VALENTINE DRAW

DTI representative Elvira Sagat (left) is seen with Ellen Lambanicio, Kate Rustia, Jill Solidum and Manny Echevarria of Bookware Publishing Corp during the recent monthly draw of the 'Nokia 3650 Raffle Promo' held at the company's offices in Pasig City. For the readers of My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbooks, its lucky winner is Wanda Ocampo of Makati City. For inquiries, call 631-8894.

Sara Lee Direct Selling at 11

THROUGH the years, Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines has become synonymous with respected and globally renowned brands recognized for their class and quality. Some of these brands include Hanes (apparel), the one and only Wonderbra (the original push-up bra), Playtex (women's undergarments), Champion (outerwear) and Zwitsal (baby care). As it celebrates its 11th anniversary this February, Sara Lee Direct Selling proudly reaffirms its commitment to bringing nothing but the best world-class brands and products to Filipino consumers. Women will delight in the bevy of new fragrance and undergarment styles, such as the A Little Romance Spring women's fragrance, NaturCare The Elements Lipstick, Just My Size bras, Playtex Pretty in Pink lingerie, Barely There Low Rise Thong and Teeny Bikini. For men, there are the Champion Men's Stripe Sleeve Crew and Men's Logo Tee, and Hanes Classics Athletic Sando. Even bigger prizes are in store for Sara Lee dealers and customers, who can avail themselves of new premiums ranging from jackets, bags, umbrellas, slip-ons and sunglasses. Visit the Sara Lee Corp website at www.saralee.com.

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People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Good news for Filipino music and movie lovers

THE WORLD Intellectual Property Organization (Wipo) recently awarded a Gold Medal to a Filipino inventor Carlos Casas for winning first prize in the National Inventions Contest 2003 of DOST as "The Most Outstanding Invention of the Year" for his Voca CDX 101 Superamp. The awarding was held at the ceremonial hall of Malacañang palace by her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, in order for her to rally and give boost to Filipino inventors. This year's festival theme is "Philippines Salutes the Filipino Inventors".

The winning invention of Casas is a breakthrough discovery because it solved the problem of distortion and noise of sound reproduction in recorded entertainment that has been an irritating frequency since November 1894 when the US Gramophone Company introduced the first 50 discs (plates) to the public. Voca CDX 101 is the World's first and the only power amplifier that can reproduce live sound as perfectly as recorded. It can actually make everyone enjoy hi-end music as if the artists are performing in front of the listeners live. One does not need to become an audiophile who spends millions of pesos and lots of time to own a hi-end audio. The Voca CDX 101 Superamp is the only one needed to upgrade an existing audio system into a hi-end audio quality. The same system can also be used for Home Theater and other functions like karaoke/videoke sing-along, video games, keyboard/guitar play and PC/Internet sound. This breakthrough technology is also good news for the recording and movie industry because Voca CDX 101 Superamp can generate a lot of new music and movie lovers that could be their future customers to patronize and buy their products.

Voca CDX 101 Superamp can give our country the first Philippine international brand in consumer electronics like Sony. Presently, it has an existing worldwide market potential due to its breakthrough technology in perfecting the reproduction of a recorded sound both for music and Home Theater. It passed the audition review in New York City by an American audiophile declaring its musical reproduction as live and Pioneer is interested to distribute it to 150 hi-end stores in Japan, using our original Filipino brand name Voca. With this invention, we can tremendously reduce our importation of audio/video systems and components and we can now export a product originally invented, designed and manufactured in the Philippines to start the only way we can truly achieve a real economic recovery and bring back some of our OCW's.

METROBANK FUN SAVERS' CLUB LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN AT MMC

The value of saving is better taught sooner than later. Thus, Metrobank Fun Savers' Club, Metrobank's kiddie savings account, launched a marketing campaign in Makati Medical Center (MMC) to encourage new mothers to open accounts for their precious angels - as early as age 0. Metrobank tied up with Baby Magazine, Kimberly Clark, and PhilUSA for the products included in the gift packs. The gift packs, are distributed free to mothers who give birth at MMC. The distribution is ongoing until July this year. Photo shows Jasmin Buñag (left), Metrobank vice president for marketing services, handing over a gift pack to Rowena Calpo, a first time mom. Looking on are Baby Magazine executive editor Jill Quimpo-Paredes, Babyflo product manager Elma Magbuhos, and MMC area manager Melanie Espineli.

ADVENTURE CLIMBER FOWLER PREFERS THE NORTH FACE

The North Face, the internationally renowned brand of high-performance outerwear and equipment is preferred by one of the world's best adventure climbers, Mick Fowler. Mick has climbed dozens of sea cliffs and mountain peaks and has led expeditions to the greater ranges since 1982. His name is practically etched on the rolls of on-sight adventure rock climbs throughout Britain. The North Face offers a comprehensive line of tekwear, sleeping bags, packs and tents. In the Philippines, Uniglobe Travelware Co Inc is the exclusive distributor of The North Face merchandise. Filipino mountain climbers can now avail of the authentic 'The North Face' clothing, gear and equipment in all Bratpack stores nationwide. Shown in photo during the TNF International Meeting are: Marisol Marcelo, Uniglobe marketing manager; Ruby Palma, Uniglobe brand executive, and international rock climber Mick Fowler.

Red Box Karaoke comes to Manila

IT'S very Pinoy alright, but karaoke fame has gone to other seas and conquered parts of Southeast Asia. Now, the hippest karaoke has come to town, Red Box Karaoke was recently launched in a star-studded party on Greenbelt 3.

Brought here in Manila by Matrix Entertainment, Red Box is widely popular in Malaysia and Hong Kong.

The ultra-modern design gives it a more inviting look. A color-coding scheme is also incorporated in the interior design of the 41 rooms not only to give it a more distinct appearance but also to help patrons find their way in this maze-like singing haven.

There is also the food to look forward to because unlike other singing venues, it offers food buffet style. It is a one-stop restaurant and karaoke bar.

Red Box has introduces a state-of-the art audiovisual equipment with a vast selection of over 30,000 songs which covers all genres and in selected languages. Several recording companies have their own rooms where you will enjoy the music they produced. One room is overlooking the Makati skyline on the streets of Makati Avenue.

Luxury rooms which sits around 30 people also come equipped with a pool table. Red Box Karaoke is already open at 12 noon if you want an intimate lunch with friends in a cozy room.

Red Box promises to be a big thing in the music scene as it is also one good venue for album launch and gatherings.

So mark your calendars Red and check out the promising craze in town.

PLDT INKS MOA WITH NISSAN

PLDT signed a MOA with Nissan Motors Phils Inc and Nissan Commonwealth Inc for the sponsorship of the hole-in-one prize of the 2nd MVP Pasasalamat Invitational Golf Tournament held recently at Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club. Under the agreement, Nissan would have given a brand new Nissan X-Trail to the hole-in-one winner. Shown signing the MOA are (from left): Nerissa Ramos, PLDT corporate business solutions vice president; Eric Alberto, PLDT corporate business group senior vice president; Gyril Abejero, Nissan Motors Phils Inc manager; Leo San Juan, Nissan Commonwealth Inc COO; and Jess Tadena, Nissan Commonwealth Inc vice president.

HEART FOR YOSHINOYA

Teen sensation Heart Evangelista was recently chosen as the latest endorser for Yoshinoya, Japan's oldest and number one beef bowl chain. Yoshinoya features meals that are a healthier alternative to the usual fast food fare. It offers tasty and affordable rice bowls, veggie side dishes, tempting desserts and healthy beverages. For over a century now, Yoshinoya has been serving great-tasting food in over a thousand Yoshinoya stores worldwide. Here in the Philippines, Yoshinoya is located in SM Southmall Las Piñas, Park Square 1 in Ayala Center Makati, SM Bicutan and SM Megamall. With Heart at Yoshinoya's Park Square 1 outlet is Yoshinoya Marketing Manager Raffy Lantin.

ALL FOR JESUS MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER THIS MARCH

Married couples interested in renewing their commitment and rediscovering more about each other are invited to join the Marriage Encounter weekend seminar on March 12, 5 p.m. up to March 14, 7 p.m. at the Angels Hills Formation Center in Tagaytay City. The marriage encounter is by the All for Jesus (AJ) Marriage Encounter series, under the spiritual guidance of Fr. Jess Fernandez, SJ. AJ belongs to the Marriage Encounter Foundation Philippines, Tuklasan Sector. This seeks to rediscover, renew, enhance and invigorate the depth of mutual commitment among married Christians. Interested parties may contact the following: Richard-Roni Merk at 0917-8191135, Otis-Jing Salon at 0919-5858361 or 0916-242-3080, Nilo-Angie Vito at 0917-6266094/0917-6266204, or Teddy-Flory Linsagan at 0917-5561348/0917-2480029, or through email address: all_for_jesus-owner@yahoogroup.com.

PCC Alumni Homecoming

Clips

CALLING all Pasig Catholic College Alumni, you are invited to our Grand Alumni Homecoming on Feb 21, at the PCC ground to be hosted by Batch '79. Registration starts at 5 p.m.

Sun Village Boracay joins 'TravelTour Expo '04

VISIT The Sun Village Boracay Resort's booth at the TravelTour Expo '04, an exciting event that offers the best travel options. Happening on Feb. 6, 7, and 8 at the Megatrade Halls 1 and 2 of SM Megamall, TravelTours Expo is a yearly event organized by the Philippine Travel Agencies Association (PTAA) to promote the tourism industry. A huge one-stop travel shop, the Expo attracts thousands of visitors that include holiday and business travelers, investors and tourism trade practitioners. As part of the resort's exhibit at the Expo, The Sun Village will present Sun Season '04, a special package that gives the best value for money for a great Boracay vacation. For more information on The Sun Village Boracay Resorts, call the Manila office at (632) 813-1338, 893-7293, or 893-9355 or the Boracay office at 63-036-288-5541. You may also send fax at (632) 812-4797 or email at fuentes@tri-isys.com or fuentes@pacific.net.ph.

ULTRA MEGA MULTI SALES HOLDS SALES CONFERENCE

Ultra Mega Multi Sales, one of the most aggressive wholesale and retail stores in the country today, held its Sales Conference at Edsa Shangri-la Hotel on Jan. 25. During the event, the management recognized the exemplary performances of its sales specialists of 2003 with plaques, trophies and cash incentives. Ultra Mega has branches in Muntinlupa, Baliuag, Bulacan and Antipolo.

TRAIL BLAZING AT SAGADA

Grab the chance to escape to the high-energy trail blazing and spelunking adventure in Sagada. Sidebar and Sentro 1771, will take four lucky guests to mystical Sagada this summer. Start the adventure at either Sentro 1771 Greenbelt or Sidebar Cafe Malate and Ortigas, and get a raffle coupon with a minimum purchase of P1,500. Charge it to your Equitable Credit Card, and earn an additional raffle coupon. The 3rd Quarter of the Great Excapes series runs from Jan. 14 to April 11. Catch the raffle draw on April 12 at Sidebar Cafe Ortigas. Sidebar Cafe is located at 1771 Adriatico st. Malate, Manila (525-5337) and El Pueblo ADB Ave. cor. J. Vargas, Ortigas Ctr. Pasig. (631-7339). Sentro 1771 is located at Level 2 Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati (757-3940).

LCCM Performing Artists in Concert at the Park

TAKING centerstage this Sunday, Feb. 8, at 6 p.m. in Concert at the Park, a weekly public service project of the National Parks Development Committee under executive director Jaime Recio, are the La Consolacion College of Manila (LCCM) Chorale and Instrumental Ensemble, under the music direction of Dr. Alfredo Buenaventura, in a program aptly titled "Homegrown Talents, Our Very Own Music". Minette Padilla is program host. The LCCM Chorale is an all-female 35-member chorale, coming from both the high school and college departments of the school. It was organized by the eminent composer/music teacher Dr. Alfredo Buenaventura. The LCCM Ensemble, on the other hand, was organized in school year 2003. It is made up of students pursuing a non-degree course in Band Conducting from the LCCM School of Music and Performing Arts. Concert at the Park is aired every Monday from 6 to 7 p.m. over Channel 4. The public is cordially invited to this Sunday presentation which will be held at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium, Rizal Park Manila. Admission is free.

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

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9395452

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2 BROTHER BEAR
3 MONA LISA SMILE
4 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
5 IN THE CUT
6 SHIRI
7 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
8 LAST SAMURAI

SM CITY CEBU
2313076

1 KING OF MASKS
2 CFC CONFERENCE
3 BROTHER BEAR
4 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
5 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
6 SHIRI
7 LOST ISLAND
8 LAST SAMURAI

SM CITY BACOOR
4173058

1 KILL BILL VOLUME 1
2 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
3 LAST SAMURAI
4 SHIRI
5 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
6 BROTHER BEAR
7 MONA LISA SMILE
8 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

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1 LAST SAMURAI
2 THE GATHERING
3 SUSPECT
4 KILL BILL VOLUME 1

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

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2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 IN THE CUT
4 LAST SAMURAI

SM BICUTAN
7763055

1 LAST SAMURAI
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 MONA LISA SMILE
4 SHIRI

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1 LAST SAMURAI
2 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
3 SHIRI
4 BROTHER BEAR

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1 IN THE CUT
2 KILL BILL VOLUME 1
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 STUCK ON YOU
5 LAST SAMURAI
6 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
7 BROTHER BEAR
8 SHIRI
9 MONA LISA SMILE
10 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING

SM SOUTHMALL
8065688

1 SHIRI
2 BROTHER BEAR
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 MONA LISA SMILE
5 KILL BILL VOLUME 1
6 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
7 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
8 LAST SAMURAI
9 STUCK ON YOU
10 IN THE CUT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 STUCK ON YOU
2 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
3 KILL BILL VOLUME 1
4 LAST SAMURAI
5 IN THE CUT
6 SHIRI
7 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
8 BROTHER BEAR
9 MONA LISA SMILE
10 TWINS EFFECT
11 PURI
12 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

SM CITY MARILAO

1 LAST SAMURAI
2 SHIRI
3 THE GATHERING
4 TWINS EFFECT

SM CITY ILOILO
3289422

1 PURI
2 RESERVED
3 LAST SAMURAI
4 TWINS EFFECT
5 KILL BILL VOLUME 1
6 SHIRI
7 RESERVED
8 SKY OF LOVE

SM MEGAMALL
6339881

1 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
RESERVE-A-SEAT dial 6356888
2 MONA LISA SMILE
3 IN THE CUT
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
5 BROTHER BEAR
6 SHIRI
7 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
8 TWINS EFFECT
9 STUCK ON YOU
10 LAST SAMURAI
11 KILL BILL VOL. 1
12 ANIMATION FESTIVAL

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 LAST SAMURAI
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 SHIRI
4 BROTHER BEAR

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 MONA LISA SMILE
3 IN THE CUT
4 LAST SAMURAI
5 BROTHER BEAR
6 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
7 SHIRI
8 TWINS EFFECT
9 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
10 HAUNTED OFFICE
11 STUCK ON YOU
12 KILL BILL VOLUME 1

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 LAST SAMURAI
3 SKY OF LOVE
4 LOST ISLAND
5 BROTHER BEAR
6 SHIRI

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 LAST SAMURAI
3 BROTHER BEAR
4 PURI
5 DIABLO
6 MONA LISA SMILE

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108977-80

1 SHIRI
2 TWINS EFFECT
3 STUCK ON YOU
4 CABIN FEVER

—THE—
PODIUM
CINEMA

1 BROTHER BEAR
11:10 FS/11:35
MF/1:15/3:15/5:05/6:55/
8:45/10:10 LFS/10:35
LMF/1:00 END

2 MONA LISA SMILE
11:10 FS/11:30
MF/1:45/4:00/6:20/8:40/
10:40 LFS/11:00
LMF/1:00 END

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DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

SM CINEMA

what to watch
Action

"Spectacular action and impassioned drama! Shiri piles one breathless sequence on top of another."
- Michael Wilmington, Chicago Tribune

A female North Korean sniper named Hee, has led agents Ryu (Han Suk-Gyu) and Lee (Song Kang-Ho) through a nightmare of burnt corpses and bloody crime scenes for ten years before suddenly vanishing. One year later she resurfaces, and with her comes a squad of North Korean commandos who have infiltrated Seoul and master-minded the theft of an experimental explosive.

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB Rating : P13

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

AYALA CINEMAS
ALL DIGITAL SOUND
PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	THE CALENDAR GIRLS 1:10 3:15 5:20 7:25 9:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 THE LAST SAMURAI 2:00 5:10 8:20 11:30	THX 1 MONA LISA SMILE
2 MONA LISA SMILE	2 STUCK ON YOU	2 MONA LISA SMILE 11:30 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 MONA LISA SMILE 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00 11:30	2 BROTHER BEAR
3 IN THE CUT	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE LAST SAMURAI 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00	REPERTORY'S FAME Feb. 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, Mar. 6 & 7	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 BROTHER BEAR 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 THE LAST SAMURAI	4 A TALE OF 2 SISTERS		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 STUCK ON YOU 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00 11:30	4 IN THE CUT
	5 BROTHER BEAR		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	5 THE LAST SAMURAI
	6 MONA LISA SMILE			
	7 IN THE CUT			

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TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
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PG-18

MONA LISA SMILE
11:40, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 10:50
PG-13

BROTHER BEAR
11:45, 1:45, 3:45
5:45, 7:45, 9:45
GP

THE LAST SAMURAI
12:20, 3:35, 6:50, 10:15
PG-13

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3 THE LAST SAMURAI 10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 DTS
4 IN THE CUT 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00
5 MONA LISA SMILE 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
6 LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING 10:20, 2:05, 5:55, 9:45 SDDS
7 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
8 STUCK ON YOU 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
9 BROTHER BEAR 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40 DTS
10 KILL BILL 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

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ERMITA 526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12

1 MONA LISA SMILE 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40 DTS
2 THE LAST SAMURAI 10:10, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00 SDDS
3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 SDDS
4 BROTHER BEAR 10:10, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:50
5 STUCK ON YOU 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 SDDS
6 IN THE CUT 11:15, 1:25, 3:40, 5:55, 8:05, 10:00 SDDS
THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40

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1 THE LAST SAMURAI 11:30, 2:30, 5:30, 9:00 DOLBY
2 IN THE CUT 10:05, 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:05 SDDS
3 MONA LISA SMILE 10:05, 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:05 SDDS
4 STUCK ON YOU 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00 DOLBY
5 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
6 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING 10:30, 12:50, 4:50, 9:00 SDDS
7 BROTHER BEAR 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00 DTS
8 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00

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1 THE LAST SAMURAI 10:40, 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:30 DOLBY
2 MONA LISA SMILE 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30 SDDS
3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 10:30, 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:00 SDDS
4 STUCK ON YOU 10:30, 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:00 SDDS
5 BROTHER BEAR 11:20, 1:05, 2:50, 4:35, 6:20, 8:10
6 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30 SDDS
7 IN THE CUT 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30 DOLBY
8 LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING 10:35, 12:40, 4:05, 7:45

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1 MAPUSOK
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 THE LAST SAMURAI
4 MONA LISA SMILE

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2 MONA LISA SMILE
3 BROTHER BEAR
4 THE LAST SAMURAI

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2 THE TWINS EFFECT
3 PURI
4 DIABLO
5 THE LAST SAMURAI

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1 THE LAST SAMURAI
2 BROTHER BEAR
3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
4 BROTHER BEAR
5 PURI

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1 PURI
2 THE LAST SAMURAI
3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
4 STUCK ON YOU
5 BROTHER BEAR

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5 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
6 THE LAST SAMURAI

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1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 THE LAST SAMURAI
3 STUCK ON YOU
4 MONA LISA SMILE
5 DIABLO
6 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

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1 MYSTIC RIVER
2 THE LAST SAMURAI
3 BRIDAL SHOWER
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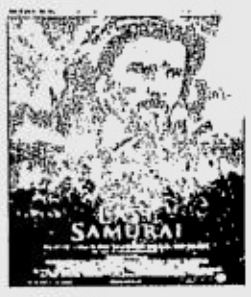
5 TURN OF THE KING
6 KILL BILL

ILOILO 336-8070/78

1 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
2 SKY OF LOVE
3 THE LAST SAMURAI
4 KILL BILL
5 PURI
6 THE TWINS EFFECT



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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

A MOMENT of endearment is shared by FPJ and actress-wife Susan Roces as king of comedy Dolphy looks on approvingly. JOAN BONDOC

'I love Susan more dearly'

But FPJ silent about son with Ana Marin

PRESIDENTIAL wannabe Fernando Poe Jr. confessed that he loves his wife, actress Susan Roces, "more dearly today."

Poe made this revelation during a rally staged by "Artista para kay FPJ" at the Quezon City Sports Club on E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City last Friday.

Photos taken by INQUIRER photographer Joan Bondoc of Poe and Roces during the event showed the actor sharing moments of intimacies with his wife.

Last week, Roces had said she would be standing by her man after he publicly acknowledged that he has a son with actress Ana Marin during a television interview by journalist Jessica Soho on GMA 7.

But in last Friday's rally, Poe, the standard bearer of the opposition Koalisyon ng Magkakaisang Pilipino in the May elections made no mention of his son, Ron-an, 22.

Poe, who is popularly known by his initials, FPJ, and Roces were married in 1968. They are childless, but had adopted Mary Grace, who is now married, and living in the US.

Considered as show biz royalties, the couple arrived at the venue at 11:15 a.m. last Friday. They were greeted by colleagues and fans with chants of "FPJ! FPJ! FPJ!" The

I LOVE/ C2

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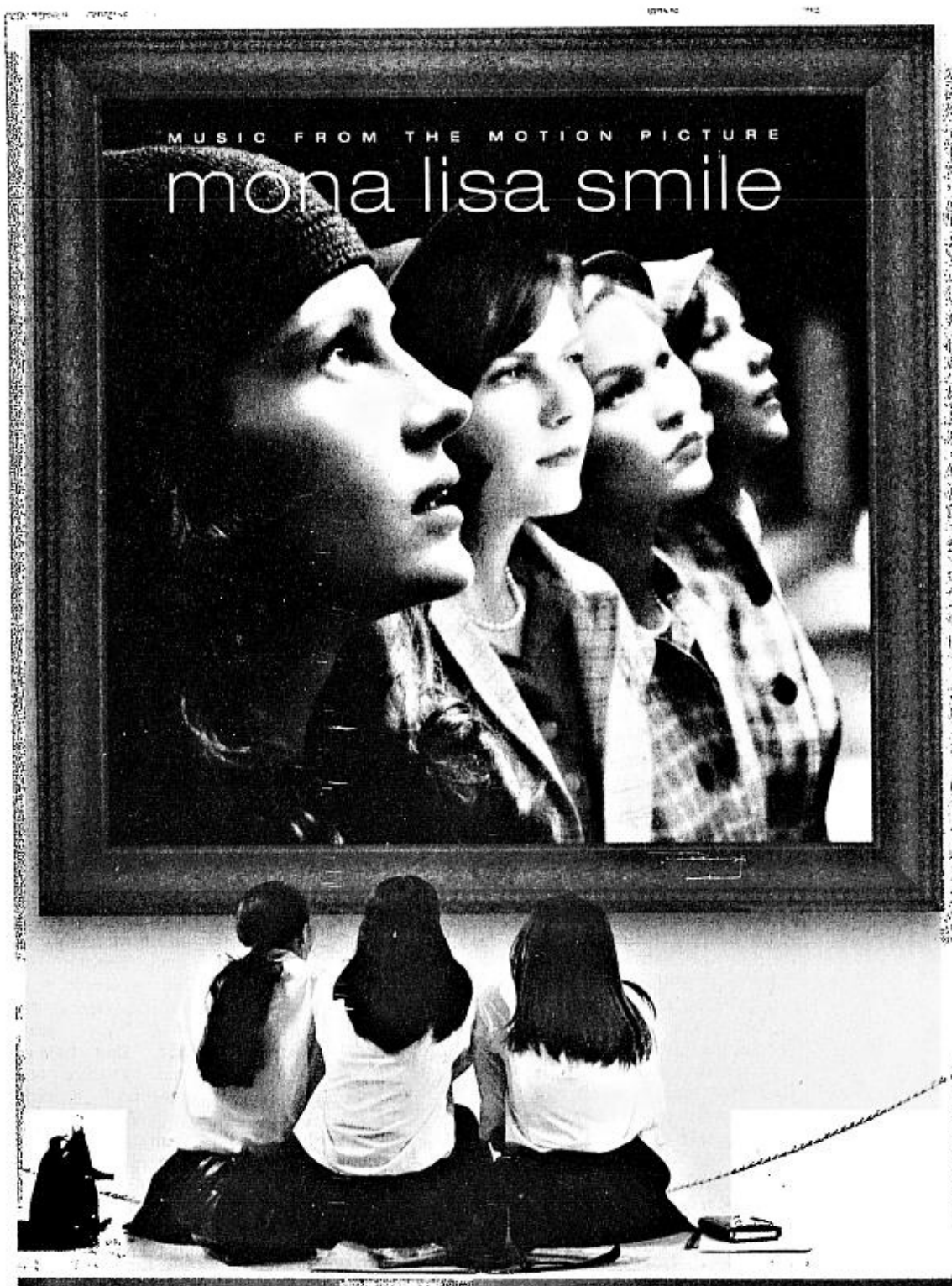

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Besame Mucho	N besamemucho	P besamemucho
Mona Lisa	N monalisa	P monalisa

HOTTEST TONES

TITLE	RINGTONE	POLYTONE
Dreams	N dreams	P dreams
Fallen	N fallen	P fallen
Weak	N weak	P weak
Til They Take My Heart Away	N tildeytake	P tildeytake
Out of Reach	N outofreach	P outofreach
Say a Little Prayer	N littleprayer	P littleprayer
You Don't Know Me	N udontknowme	P udontknowme
Toxic	N toxic	P toxic
Because Of You	N becauseofu	P becauseofu
Baby I Love You	N babyiloveu	P babyiloveu
Happy	N f4happy	P f4happy
Clarity	N clarity	P clarity
Moonlight Over Paris	N moonlight	P moonlight
Overjoyed	N overjoyed	P overjoyed
Knock Me Off My Feet	N knocksmeoff	P knocksmeoff
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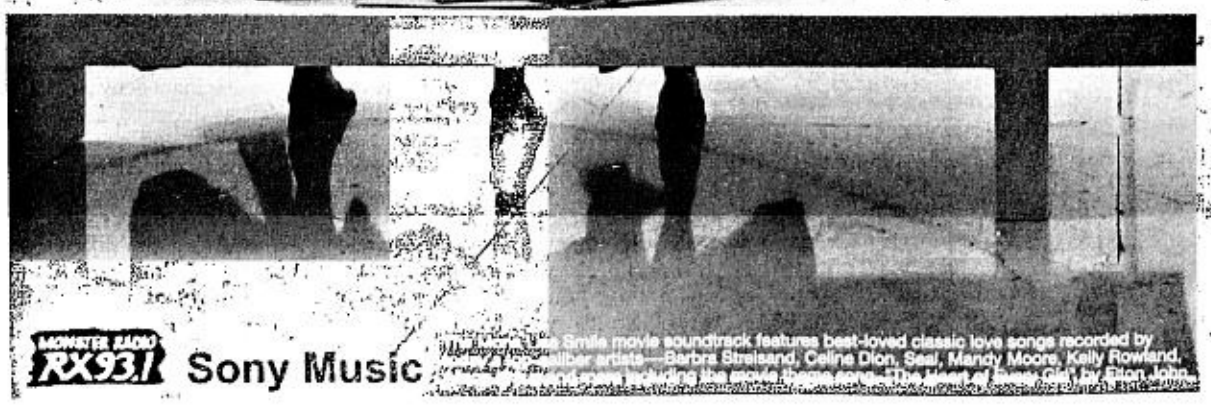

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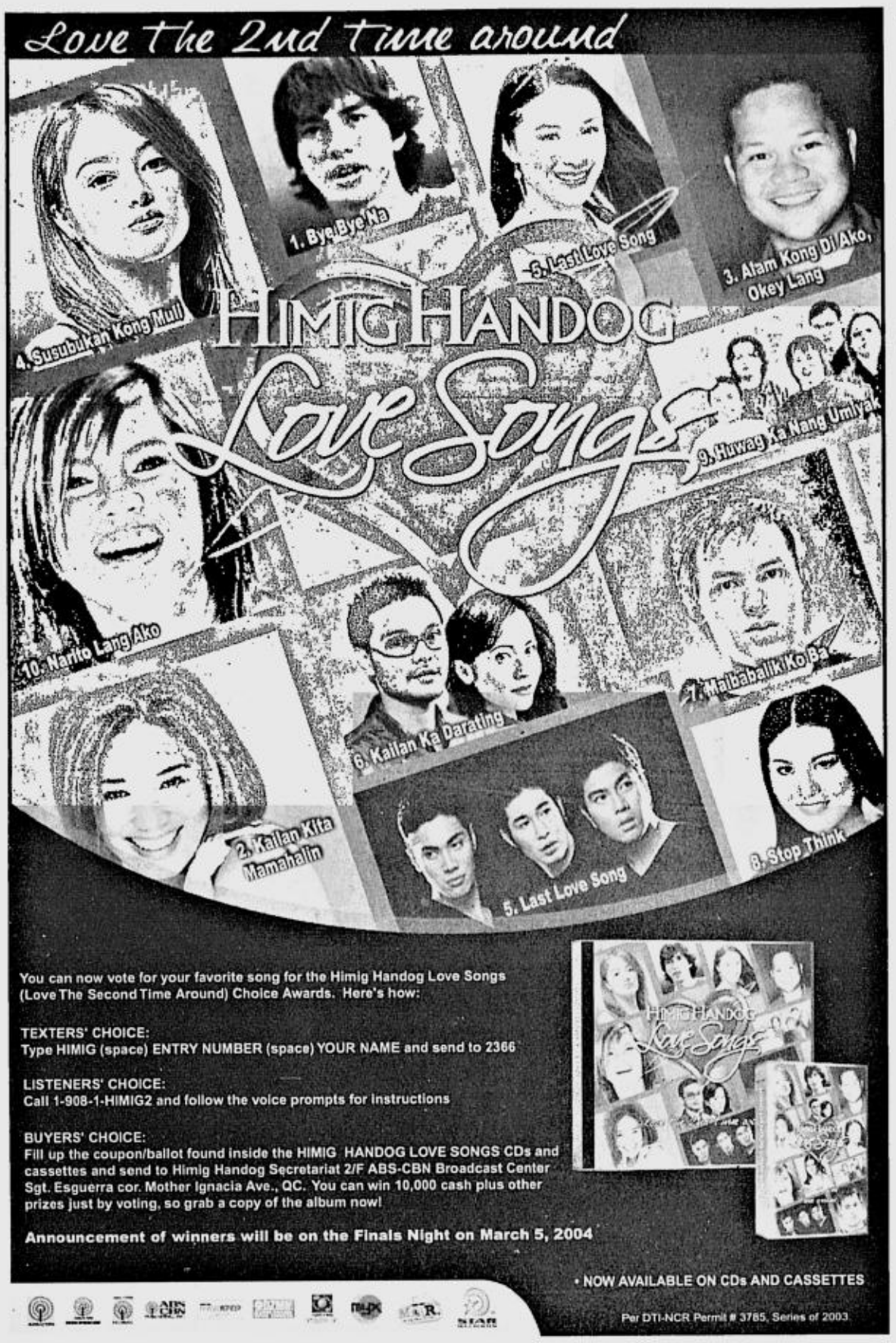

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ABANGAN BUKAS

'I love Susan more dearly'

From page C1

chanting continued as Poe and Roces sat down on stage.

Addressing the audience, Poe delivered an impassioned talk that also finally gave a glimpse of his political platform.

He said his candidacy had altered his life "seriously."

"In order for the people to have confidence in the government, there must be a leader that would apply the rule of law (and) good governance. (There should be) a political will and total transparency," said Poe.

"Because at the end of the day, this leader would be answerable to the people, to you my colleagues, and answerable to God," the actor said during the rally organized by actors, stunt men, crew members, cameramen, legmen and other members of the entertainment industry.

"I want to share with you some of my views and vision," the actor said. "I've learned that the biggest scandal in our country is poverty. As you all know, even domestic and foreign investors don't want to invest here. Even our professionals, instead of working here, are now looking for jobs abroad. *Wala nang tiwala sa ating gobyerno* (They no longer trust our government)."

Poe said the country's yearly budget of about P800 billion is sourced mainly from the remittances of overseas Filipino workers, who are responsible for bringing into the country about P600 billion annually.

"Kaya kung wala sila hindi ko alam kung saan tayo susuot (If they are not around, I do not know how we would survive)," Poe explained.

He claimed he never dreamed of becoming a politician. He said his family, especially Susan, had been against his joining politics.

"But as time went on, *naririnig ko na ang sigaw ng bayan ay tumakbo* (I heard the people clamoring for me to run). This is a call from the people that I really cannot say no to. I told my wife, Inday, this is probably our assignment."

ANOTHER moment of endearment, this time between FPJ and a supporter. JOAN BONDOC

With tears filling Poe's deep-set eyes, the actor said that "because of this development, *nagbago ang buhay namin* (our life has changed)."

He revealed that since announced his bid for the presidency he had already spoken to more than 17 ambassadors.

"Before, I would talk only to scriptwriters, cameramen and producers," he emphasized.

"Who would ever think that now, I'd be talking to ambassadors. Can you picture that?"

But the movie idol claimed that he had already prepared for the worse when he decided to run for the presidency.

After his speech, Poe, together with Roces, walked from table to table and greeted members of the "Artista para kay FPJ" coalition, chaired by actor Richard Gomez.

Mraz hits Manila on Feb. 21

SHOW TIME

TICKETS to Jason Mraz's live performance in Manila on Feb. 21 are selling like hotcakes, making his show the most anticipated concert event this month.

The concert will be held at the Aliw Theater, CCP Complex.

Also performing is Paolo Santos.

Mraz wowed the music world with his lyrical mastery and unique musical style, developed in San Diego and harnessed by the music industry for the big leagues. He broke into the music scene with hits like "Sleep All Day" and "The Remedy," which also gave the 20-something singer critical acclaim.

His latest single Curbside Prophet is already dominating the local airwaves.

A music video of culled from the album will also be aired soon on music channels.

Mraz's Manila show is made possible by Warner Music Philippines and Eventscape Manila.

Tickets are available at Ticketworld outlets in all major National Bookstore. Call Eventscape Manila at 561-0442.

Gretchen stands by her man

ACTRESS Gretchen Barretto, the lovely partner of Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco gave full support to her man, who had added the ABC television network to his business empire a few months ago.

BARRETTO with Lucy Torres-Gomez ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

She graced the Annual PBA Rookie Draft held Friday evening at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

The 10 PBA teams chose their pick from among a field of over 40 promising rookies who hope to see action in the forthcoming PBA Season.

ABC has acquired the rights to air the 30th season of the Philippines' premier professional basketball league. The PBA games will air on prime time on ABC starting Sunday, Feb. 22. Airing schedule is 7-9 p.m. every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 4-9 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. With its five-day prime time schedule, the PBA games will effectively be the core of ABC's programming. The network said however, that aside from the PBA games which it promises to turn into more exciting, dramatic viewing, ABC will reinvent its existing local shows, "Ispup," "Wow... Mali" and "Sing Galing," and introduce new program concepts both homegrown and from strategic content partners such as Ideal Minds Inc., which produces Maverick & Ariel, a reality show that is now enjoying a cult following.

Under Tonyboy, ABC is gearing itself to challenging the supremacy of the two dominant networks, ABS-CBN and GMA. He has allocated millions to maximize the signal quality and reach of ABC and upgrade its technical facilities. He is expected to allocate as much for its programming.

Tonyboy has acquired a key asset for the big job ahead. Ex-GMA top gun Bobby Barreiro is consultant for programming and key areas of operation of ABC and managing director of ABC's marketing arm, ABMC.

Of course, there's always Ms Greta behind Tonyboy.

Undue Advantage

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

WE in the entertainment press may do well to remind ourselves of a few basics going into the Feb. 10 election campaign proper.

A first big basic is that the media are the best short cut to exposure for any candidate, whether these would-be public officials go for national or provincial positions.

A second is that the media have to play fair, if they have to deserve their rarefied place as check and balance to government and mirror and change agent to society.

And a third is that the election is mighty serious business, with an outcome capable of affecting even the lives of our unborn.

Cross our hearts and hope to die, with every media exposure a candidate takes that one more leap closer to victory. On TV, he gains face recall; in a broadsheet, she positions herself as a serious player; on radio, they turn themselves into household names.

Without the mass media, a candidate would never manage to introduce himself, his accomplishment, and his promises to the national electorate within the 90 days allotted. Leaflets, streamers, posters, balloons, or even dirigibles, will never get her near everyone, everywhere, fast enough.

Only mass media exposure, particularly when it is constant, calibrated, and calculated, can move things for him well within the campaign deadline.

There's no arguing it: Candidates need the media—and that includes the entertainment media.

As such, like everyone else, we in the entertainment press have to follow the rules of fair play. We cannot, if we had our senses about us, give undue advantage to one candidate over another.

In the event that we do, and end up selling the unworthy ones to the public, we must forever hold our peace when the country does shrivel and die, for we would have surrendered all right to expose and exhort by then.

All this means we need to be judicious about our coverage of movie stars running in the May elections. And at this juncture of our national life, to write about them copiously in our entertainment sections—whether on TV, print, radio—is to give them that undue advantage.

As it is, we've already written up as news the fact of their running. On the basis of their celebrity, they've made themselves newsworthy. All right, but in that alone they *are* advantaged. Still, there will be more: press conferences, parties with the press, one-on-ones, invitations to have coffee and to visit their vacation homes, happy hour with their kids and supporters and loved ones.

It can all be too much.

Yet it will seem standard enough, even innocent. Many in the movie press will go because this is a movie star asking them to: It's part of the beat. What's more, with the star giving her personal attention, now a mite more lavish and sustained than it ever was, it can all feel so genial for us in the press, if not outright flattering.

Many entertainment reporters will, in all honesty, think there is nothing amiss about any of this. They've always gone whenever the star called before this, and they've always written about whatever was brewing in the star's camp. It's much like when the star promotes a movie: They get invited to a press con, and they write about it. It's the run of the trade.

Except that, this is not a movie, this has nothing to do with stardom, and this is not a show-biz development. This is not part of the trade.

This is the elections—the one leveller that reminds us all that we live under a democracy, despite the many proofs to the contrary. This is a would-be politician running for office—in a victory that can define where our country will go. And this is writing about governance and the national welfare—at the core of which we speak about the quality of our future.

The star, having crossed over from show biz to politics, must stop being treated like an entertainer and start being dealt with as a politician. He/she must be ranged beside other politicians running for the same office, and from that same podium be given no more and no less than what are given the others in media exposure.

And the entertainment press, never having severed its ties with journalists working other beats, has to start doing things with a better and finer sensibility this time. As all media are expected to do.

Tonet Salcedo sings again

SHOW TIME

A FORMER ramp model-turned-restaurateur and interior designer returns to her singing career.

Tonet Salcedo now performs every night at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati.

She is accompanied by veteran session musicians—Romy Posadas on piano, Roger Herrera on bass and Ramon Guevarra on percussion.

Her comeback was prompted by requests from music lovers, who have followed her career and patronized her various restaurants, like Winnestube and now Endangered Species Cafe Bar in Malate, Manila.

Tonet has conquered Hong Kong with her stint as a singer at the Hyatt Hotel, Holiday Inn Hotel and New World Hotel. When she returned to the country, she opened her own restaurant where she was both singer and hostess.

Known for her husky voice, soulful eyes and emotive renditions of pop classics, Tonet has proved herself to be a versatile singer. She is as comfortable with jazz as she is at home with ballads and blues.

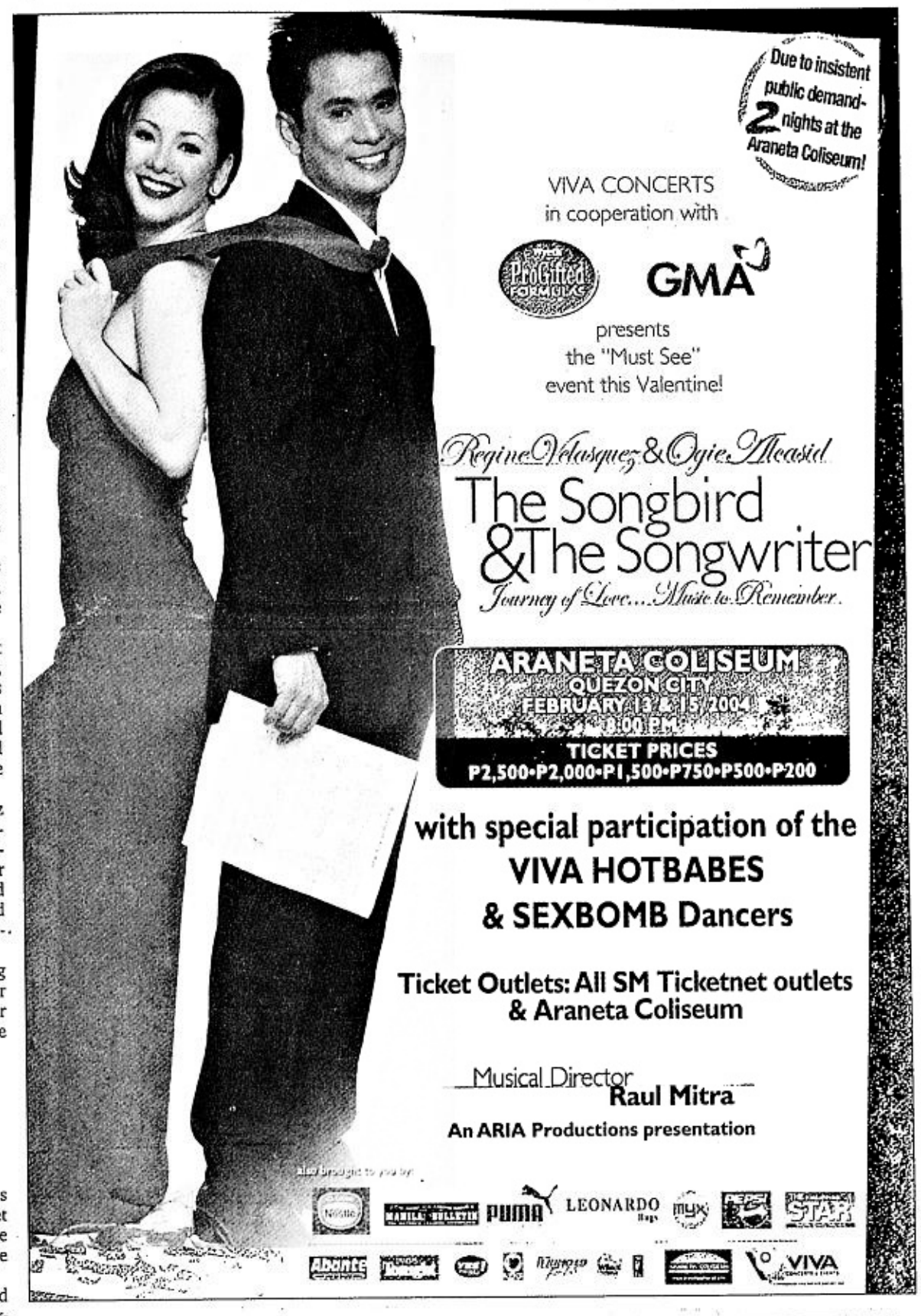
This flexibility is showcased in her repertoire for her performance at the Captain's Bar.

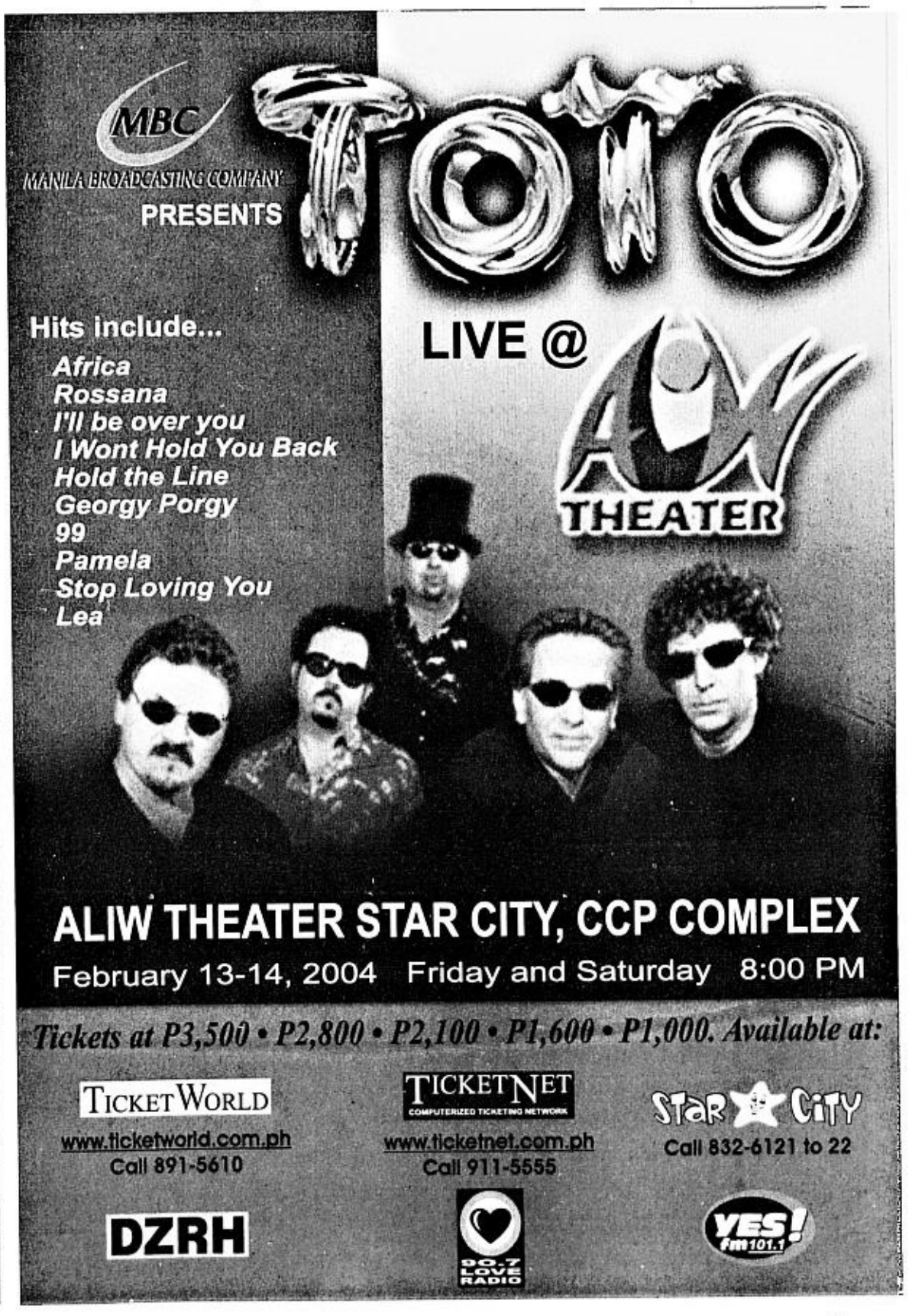
A rundown of her play list includes songs popularized by her own musical influences like Shirley Bassey, to whom Tonet's voice has often been compared, Ella Fitzgerald, Janis Ian, Sarah Vaughn, Carmen McRay and other music icons of different periods.

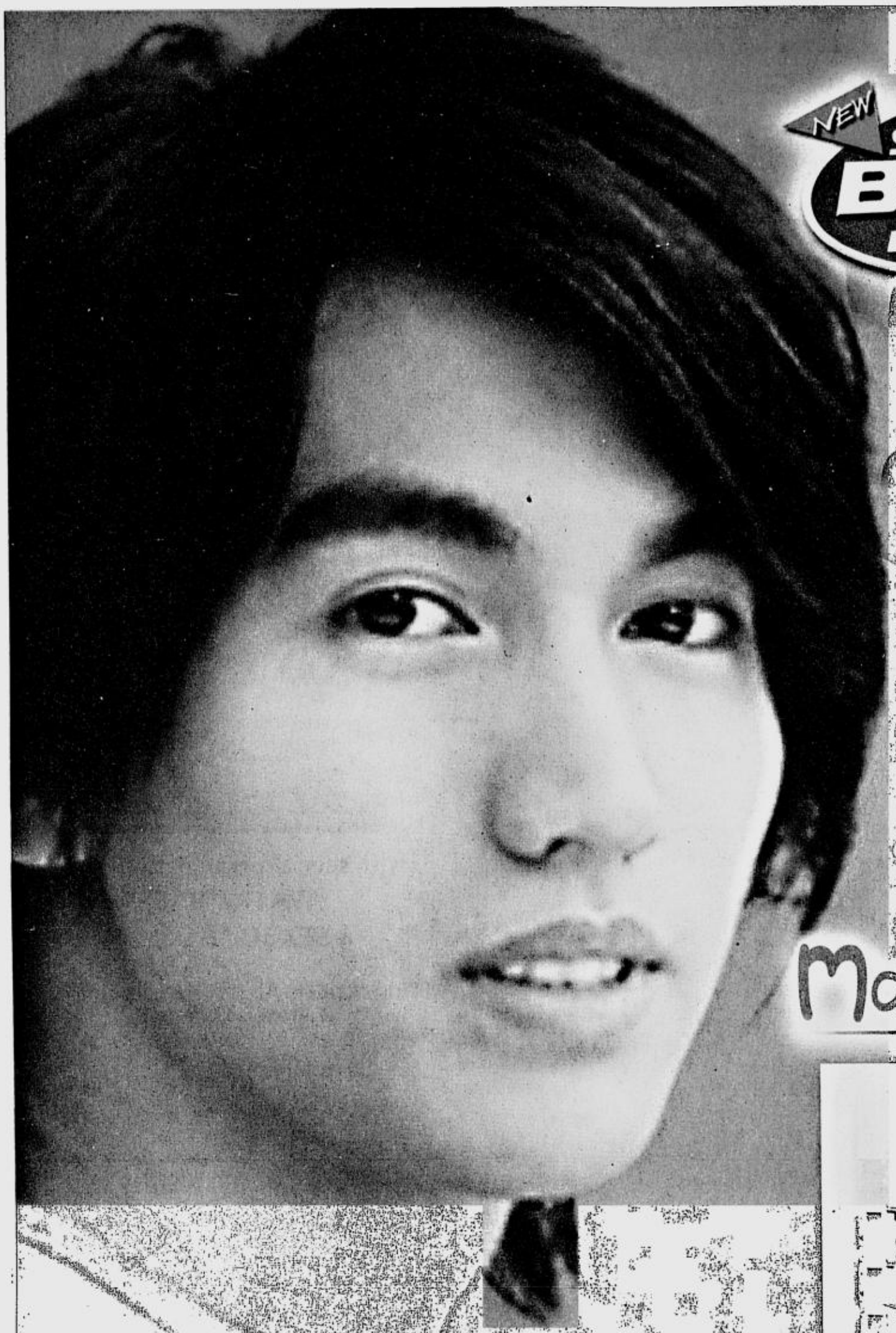
At the Captain's Bar, Tonet goes beyond performing. She bares her soul as she entertains the audience, who can't seem to have enough of her.

DID YOU KNOW...

AMERICAN singers **Patti Austin** and **James Ingram** will arrive in Manila on Feb. 10 and 11, respectively, to rehearse for their upcoming Valentine show at the PICC open field in Pasay City. News of their arrival dispels rumors that their one-night concert has been canceled. The duo decided to fly in early to acclimatize their voices.







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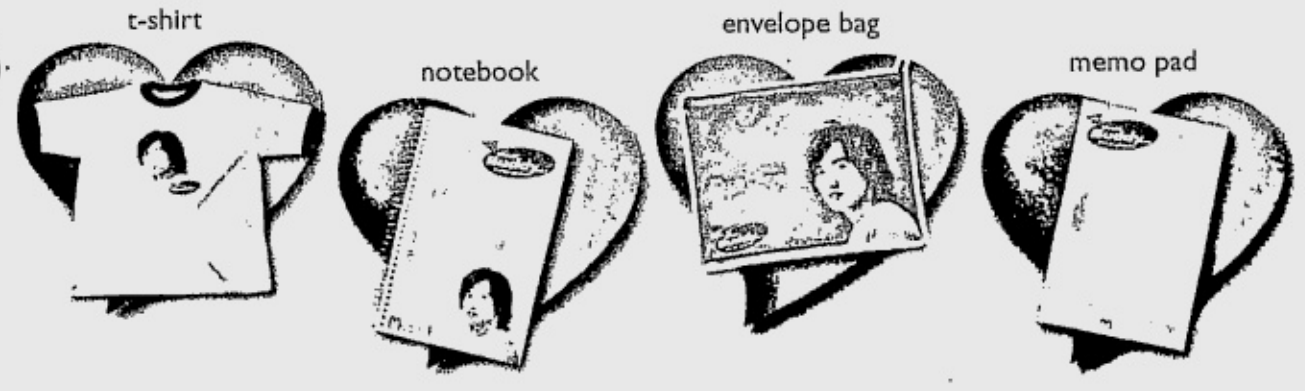
Magic Kitchen

"Magic Kitchen" starring F4's Jerry Yan opens in theaters on February 11, 2004



This February, get the SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 for only P199 at SMART Wireless Centers or SMART Retail Outlets and bring home any of these "Magic Kitchen" memorabilia featuring Jerry Yan for FREE:

February 7-29: Privilege to join the pick-a-prize raffle where you could win a "Magic Kitchen" collectible. (Nationwide)

Make "Magic Kitchen" your Valentine date movie.

Text F4 to 290.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2004

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Sunday LIFE

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or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Bikini season is here!

The no-fuss swimwear is all it takes to undress well

MELISSA Odabash two-piece bikini in salsa

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

READY to make a splash?

Like it or not, swimsuit season is now around in the neighborhood. Horror of horrors, no girl would want to be mistaken for Robin Williams, so serious Brazilian defuzzing (ouch!) is in order. And, we know, the stubborn holiday weight is taking longer to shed off, no matter how you've been sweating yourself off like the Seabiscuit on the treadmill.

But the more serious issue for the beach goddess is what to wear while getting that lovely tan, of course, because she'd rather bury herself in the sand than (gasp!) be caught frolicking in the same bikinis that are "so very last [sun] season"—that is, if those bikinis are still in shape. (You see, most swimsuits treacherously succumb to gravity quicker than their owners' bods!)

When a girl just wants to look good—okay, hot—on the beach and her goals don't go as far as aiming to be the female equivalent of Ian Thorpe, she naturally thinks Speedo should be left to the pros.

Does she care about swimming as fast as the fishes?

Nooo! Aiming to make waves, she'll obviously go for a little-known but highly fashionable name with cuts that flaunt her assets and designs that spell h-o-t-t-i-e. Never mind that the material is of that quality that could expose secrets too private even for a bikini—and give in after a couple of laps in the pool and even before she gets a hint of tan.

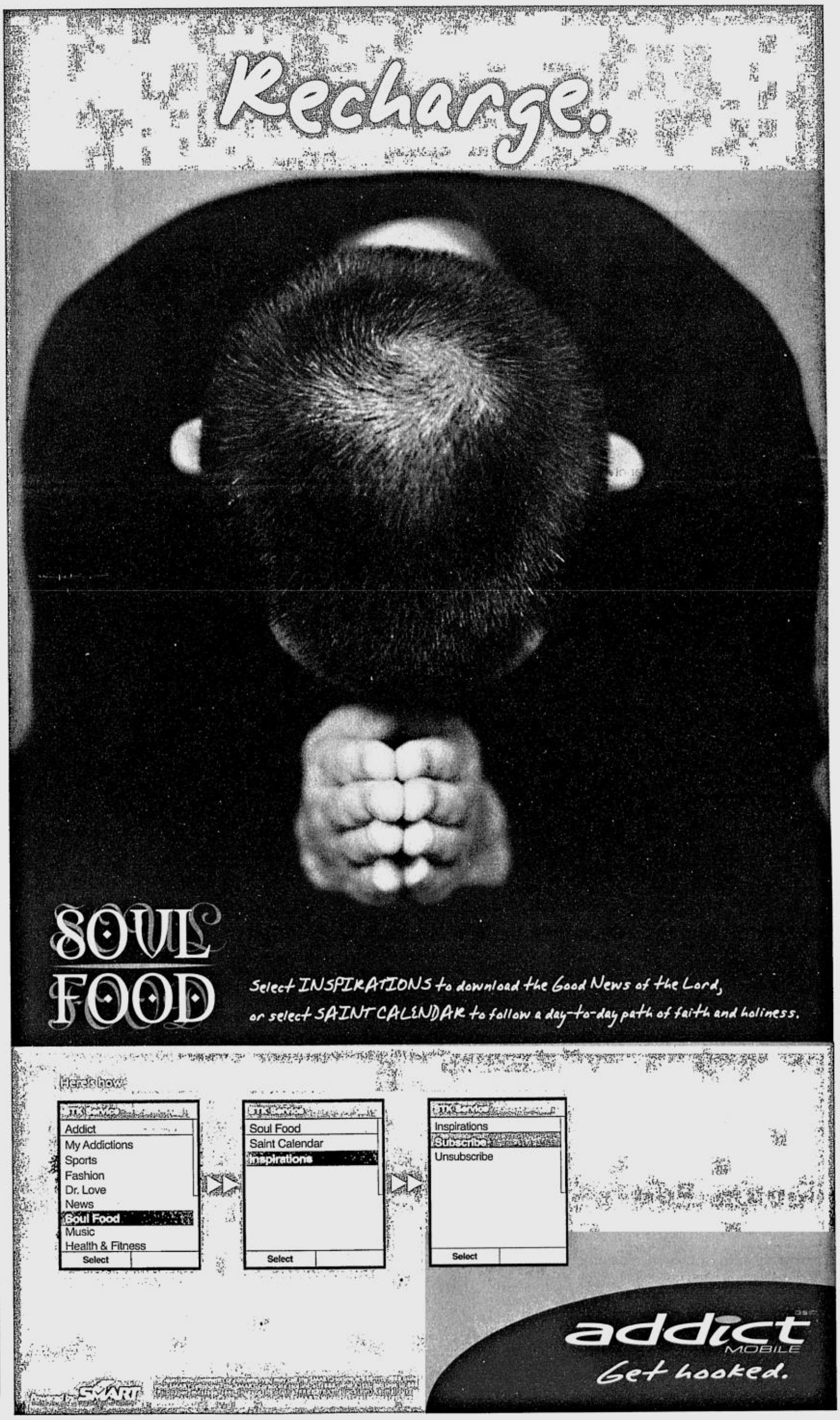
Not to fret, beach babes are in for a double treat this summer. Speedo has come up with its very own, well, haute couture line of beach fashion. It's keeping its high-performance lines for true-blue water babies, sure, but now it also has collections that toast the ocean divas—in quality and materials that defy gravity at that.

The name synonymous to things stretchy has enlisted famous swimwear designer Melissa Odabash to create two sophisticated pieces for the Designer Collection. One is a subtly sexy asymmetric black number with a buckle fastening. The other is a two-piece, salsa-colored design with tortoiseshell accents.

The Cannes Collection transports its wearer to the French Riviera in über-hot faux leather (nylon and Lycra, actually) designs

BIKINI/ D2

URSULA triangle bikini in opaque white



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Bikini season is here!

From page D1

with bead accents. Options are in tankini and teeny-weeny triangle bikini. Pastel-cool choices come from the Geo Collection, which are embossed with geometric shapes.

What hot-blooded male wasn't left wishing he were Bond, James Bond, at the sight of Halle Berry in that juicy belted number emerging like a sea nymph in the flick "Die Another Day"?

Speedo's Ursula Collection has white-hot replicas—in bikini and boyleg designs—for mortals to ensnare their own 007s. (Oh, wish! Even Speedo can only do so much.)

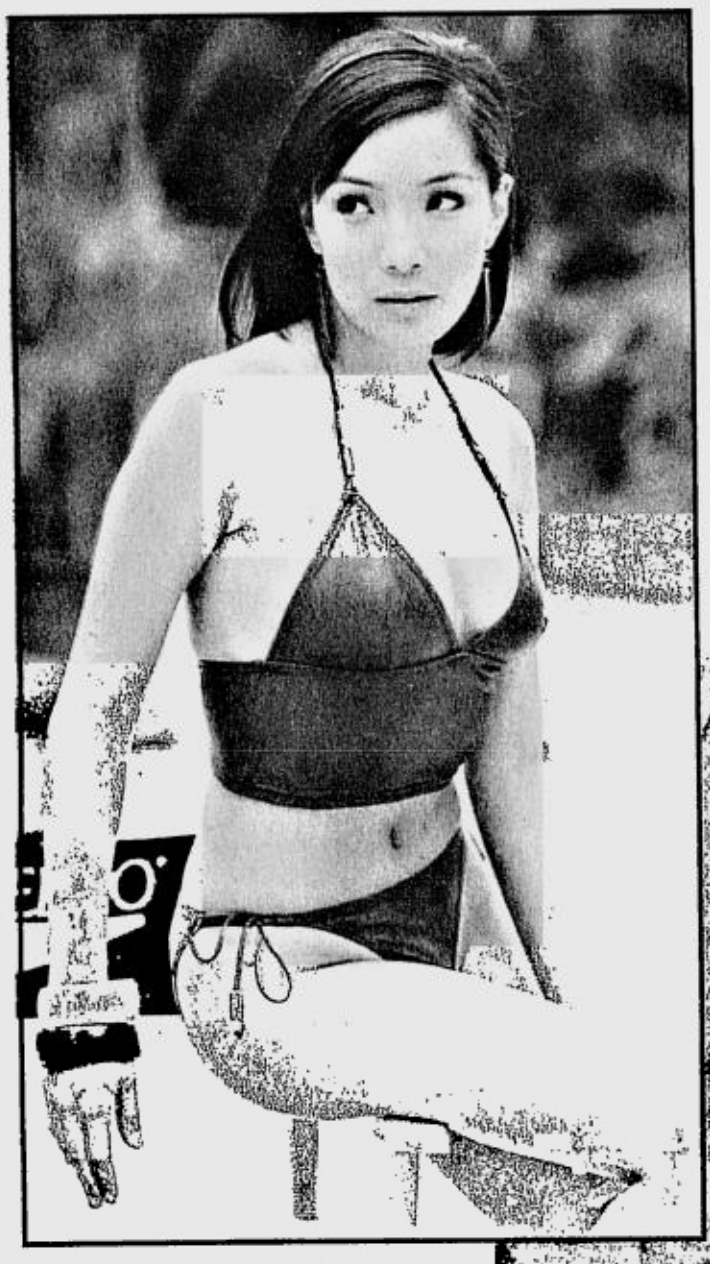
Donning up a white bikini with the prospect of getting soaked can be pretty daunting. Things *will* show.

"But such is my confidence in the quality of Speedo [that I wouldn't think twice about wearing its white pieces]," says svelte TV personality Pia Guanio, who models the Spring/Summer 2004 collections for this spread.

Oh, about the holiday weight? You've got time, ladies. The collections won't be in the stores until March. You're seeing them here first.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

MELISSA Odabash one-piece swimsuit in black



CANNES tankini in cassis

GEO triangle bikini in ice lemon

URSULA boyleg and halter bikini top in opaque white

MODEL: PIA GUANIO
STYLING: RONI GARCIA
HAIR AND MAKEUP: MARIFE MORDIDO
SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE EDSA SHANGRI-LA HOTEL POOLSIDE
SPECIAL THANKS TO ANGEL JAVIER

SPEEDO IS LOCATED AT GLORIETTA 4, SM MEGAMALL, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, ROBINSONS PLACE ERMITA, THE PODIUM, PASEO DE STA. ROSA, EASTWOOD CITY, AYALA CEBU, SM CEBU, SM DAVAO, ROBINSONS PLACE BACOLOD, SM CAGAYAN DE ORO AND GAISANO MACTAN

Make children happy this Valentine

CHILDREN'S Hour, a fundraising campaign that calls on individuals and companies to donate an hour of their earnings in support of organizations that work for the welfare and development of children, is celebrating Valentine's Day this year by linking up with certain restaurants and establishments.

By patronizing these shops in the Ayala Commercial Centers in Alabang and Makati, Robinson's Commercial Centers and Rockwell, you will be able to help underprivileged children.

Visit the following establishments and look for the Children's Hour logo: Tequila Joe's, Sari-Sari Café (Glorietta and Eastwood), Ebun (Greenbelt), Subway (Glorietta), San Mig (Alabang Town Center), Figaro, Ayala Cinemas (Greenbelt, Glorietta, Alabang Town Center), Oakwood Premier Makati, Thai Kitchen (Robinsons Galleria), Bizu Patisserie (Greenbelt 2), Pizza Hut, Bacolod Chicken Inasal (Robinsons Galleria), Max Brenner (Greenbelt 3) and Cibo.

Make your Valentine's Day more meaningful by celebrating it for the kids of Children's Hour. Call 8941663, e-mail ask@childrenshour.org.ph or visit www.childrenshour.org.ph

Men of passion and inspiration

AGA Muhlach

TEN men whose passion and dedication to their chosen fields make them worthy to be called men of inspiration are featured in the February 2004 issue of Me magazine.

Ricky Dee of Mangan, Kitchen, Osake and Kai knows how to work hard but finds time to be a husband and father.

Singer, actor and patriot Robert Seña makes faith in God his priority. He is a good husband to singer and actress Isay Alvarez and a good dad to their kids.

As owner of Leap School for Young Children and co-owner of Link Center for the Deaf, Raffy Reloza finds teaching a rewarding profession and does not feel awkward to be in a field dominated by women.

Dr. Francisco Vicente F. Lopez, specialist in blood-related disorders and expert in bone marrow transplantation at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center, considers himself an instrument in making people feel better.

Former Finance Secretary Luis "Lito" Camacho is glad to be back in the private sector so he will have more time to be with his family.

Twenty-eight year-old Kidlat de Guia uses his skills as a filmmaker to show there is a lot to learn from even the simplest of things.

Architect Joven Ignacio makes sure his love of nature shows in the homes he builds and in his paintings.

BJ Manalo Jr. regards his basketball skill a God-given talent and sees himself as a servant of God.

Another basketball standout, Jimmy Alapag of Talk N' Text, is not bothered by his being shorter than most of his colleagues as he believes what is more important is to make full use of one's strengths.

On the cover is show-business heartthrob Aga Muhlach, who talks about his wish to give a better life not just to his family, but also to others.

The February 2004 issue of Me, published by Mega Magazines and Publications, Inc., is now available in all leading bookstores and newsstands nationwide. Call 6312859.

Mall offers sweet sounds and gifts this love month

IT'S a month of love, romance, music and Valentine treats as Shangri-La Plaza brings shoppers a different kind of February.

Romantic music fills the Grand Atrium with the Acoustic Jive on Feb. 13 and 14. On Feb. 15, Aquarella takes centerstage with bossa nova grooves. D'Akoutiks will provide acoustic entertainment today at The 5th, Shang's youth shopping destination.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts also celebrates National Arts Month with Sining Pinoy 2004 Makilahok sa Malikhaing Sambayanan, a performance by some of the country's most noted classical singers.

From Feb. 13-22, a photo exhibit entitled "Marco Polo: The China Mystery Revealed," showcases the photographic works of Michael Yamashita, a photojournalist and regular contributor to the National Geographic Channel.

And from Feb. 27-29, the 38th Annual Ikebana goes on exhibit at the Grand Atrium.

The month of hearts is simply not complete without the gifts and the sweets. Diners at Shang's Streetscape will get a special treat on Feb. 13. Their P2,000 same-day single purchase at any of the restaurants and bars at Streetscape will get them a free box of Arnott's Tartlets.

Performing every Friday and Saturday nights at Streetscape are RJ and Friends (Feb. 13), the Norwegian group D'Sound (Feb. 14), Time & A Half (Feb. 20-21), Time Machine (Feb. 27) and Highway 69 (Feb. 28).

Call 6337851.

Shangri-La Plaza was adjudged the "Best Shopping Center of the Year" in 2003 by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Philippine Retailers Association.

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FINAL ENROLLMENT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THIS TERM

THE PROFESSIONAL CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM

The Professional Culinary Arts Program prepares students for professional entry into the food service industry. This intensive program integrates classical and modern culinary techniques with kitchen management skills. Students learn how to prepare soups, sauces, vegetables, entrees, breads, pastries and desserts. They will learn how to identify, fabricate and portion meat, poultry, fish and shellfish. The course will also provide the introductory skills on Asian cooking, wine appreciation and table service.

The program is a hands-on training series for students to gain proficiency in various skills needed to perform at professional standards in a commercial kitchen. The students will also prepare a Legacy buffet. The program has Internship or In-house Practicum for 200 hours and Externship or Outside Practicum for 200 hours. Enrollment includes 3 sets of uniforms, chef's kit, manual and all the ingredients to be used.

Classes will start on February 16. Enrollment is ongoing. For inquiries and reservations, call 726-9326 or 725-5089 and look for Marilyn or Glady.

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Greenbelt: 757 4853, 11 am -12 mn

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Romancing the Town
Hajji Alejandro & Roselle Nava
February 14, 7 pm Town Plaza
Himig Handog's Love Songs With
Anna Fegi, Aliya Parcs & 17:28
February 15, 4pm Town Plaza
For inquiries, call our Customer Hotline: 842-2782

AYALA CENTER
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SMART to non-SMART*	P7.50	P7.00	P6.50	P6.00	P5.50	P4.50
Text Fee after Free SMS	P1.00	P1.00	P0.50	P0.50	P0.50	P0.50
IDD Rate**			$0.40			

*SMART to other cellphone networks, local, and NDD.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Designer sex, anyone?

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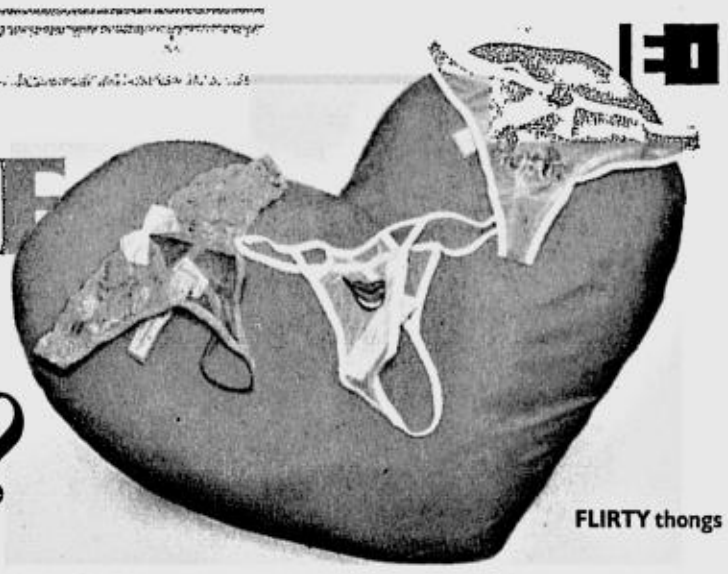

FLIRTY thongs

Bare Essentials is not all about sex, but freedom

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Rudy Esperas

HEY, busy lady. Apparently in the midst of working 40-plus hours a week, you have neglected the man in your life. This Valentine's Day, be sure to send him a romantic hint by lounging in some of the latest styles in intimate apparel. Or by lavishly spraying on romantic perfumes and applying on yourself luxurious body oils and lotions. You can also present him toys that can jump-start your sex life.

It's all part of boudoir chic, a new rage that has spawned a wave of sexy boutiques such as Bare Essentials, run by a woman for women. Owned and managed by Marie Ann Jao Topacio, the five-month-old shop injects glamour and style into the gritty sex industry.

With outlets at Ali Mall and in Bacolod City, Bare Essentials (tels. 9950848 and 9329127; e-mail bareessentials@bareessentials.com.ph or showoffsecondskin@yahoo.com) is packed with small but sexy treasures. One wall is filled with sweet sheer slips; turn around and you'll find sexy underwear and body-hugging lingerie styles behind you. Seductive color, sophisticated lace and embroidered details distinguish this shop's collections.

But the boutique—Topacio despises the term "sex shop"—avoids any connotation of sleaziness which lingerie might carry. It helps women of all shapes and sizes, if not tax brackets, feel that sensuality need not be limited to models and celebrities. "The store offers items to accentuate every body type. So whether you're fat or thin, short or tall, there's something here that you want and will make you feel free and beautiful," Topacio says.

Fun and sexy items

Bare Essentials showcases a collection that promises, somewhat enigmatically, that "dinner parties need never be dull again."

Aside from sleepwear and underwear, the shop offers swimwear, water pads, liquid gel pads, artificial silicone breast, lingerie laundry bags, bra tapes, assorted bra straps, lingerie laundry soap, leg garters, stockings and hosiery, self-adhesive backless and strapless bra, bridal accessories, T-shirts and fancy costumes.

There are also products for premenstrual and menopausal syndrome and feminine hygiene, ovulation and pregnancy home test kits, incontinence products for the elderly, contraceptives and safe-sex products, instruments for improved female sexual and sensual pleasure, massage items, bachelorette party gags, gifts, and books about women and their empowerment.

The shop also has wet-flavored, water-based, and non-allergen lubricants and moisturizers from the US; wet moisturizing and massage lotion; Vagisil moisturizer; Replens

DESIGNER/ E2

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The biggest-selling female debut artist of 2003 returns with her second album featuring the hit single 'Make You Mine' and the new hit single 'A Girl Can Dream'. Album Out Now!

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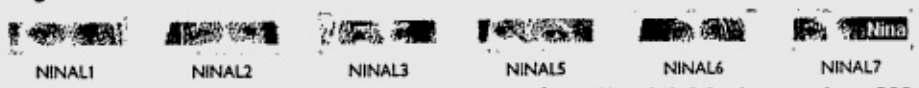
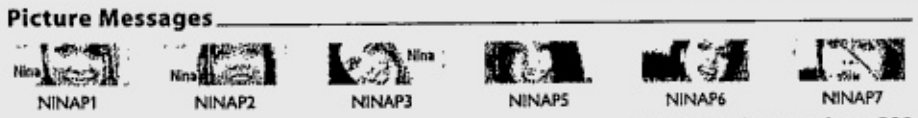
Tones

Title	Artist	Keyword
Jealous	Nina	LUV1
Foolish Heart	Nina	LUV2
Loving You	Nina	LUV3
Heaven	Nina	LUV4
Make You Mine	Nina	LUV5
A Girl Can Dream	Nina	LUV6
What If	Nina	LUV7
Sayang Naman	Nina	LUV8
Goodnight But Not Goodbye	Nina	LUV9
I'll Always Stay In Love This Way	Nina	LUV10
Still Gonna Be	Nina	LUV11
Can't Say I Love You	Nina	LUV12
Smile	Nina	LUV13
You And I Both	Jason Mraz	LUV34
I'll Do Anything	Jason Mraz	LUV35
Remedy (I Won't Worry)	Jason Mraz	LUV36
Sleep All Day	Jason Mraz	LUV37
Absolutely Zero	Jason Mraz	LUV38
No Stopping Us	Jason Mraz	LUV39
On Love, In Sadness	Jason Mraz	LUV40
Boy's Gone	Jason Mraz	LUV41
Because Of You	Keith Martin	LUV14
Groovy Kind Of Love	Phil Collins	LUV15
How Do I Live	Trisha Yearwood	LUV23

Text **TONE <keyword>** to **209**
Text **POLY <keyword>** to **209**

Logos


Text **LOGO <keyword>** to **209**

Picture Messages


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SMART Simply Amazing!
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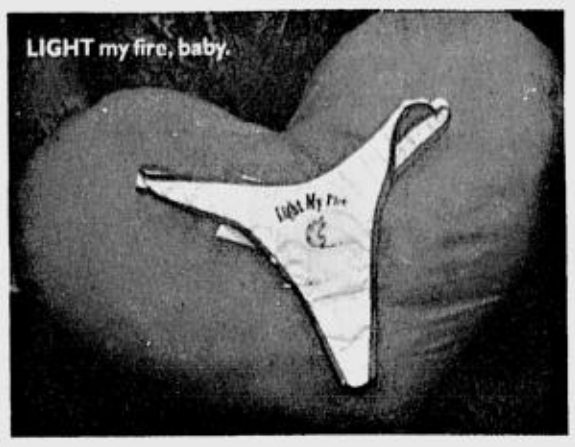
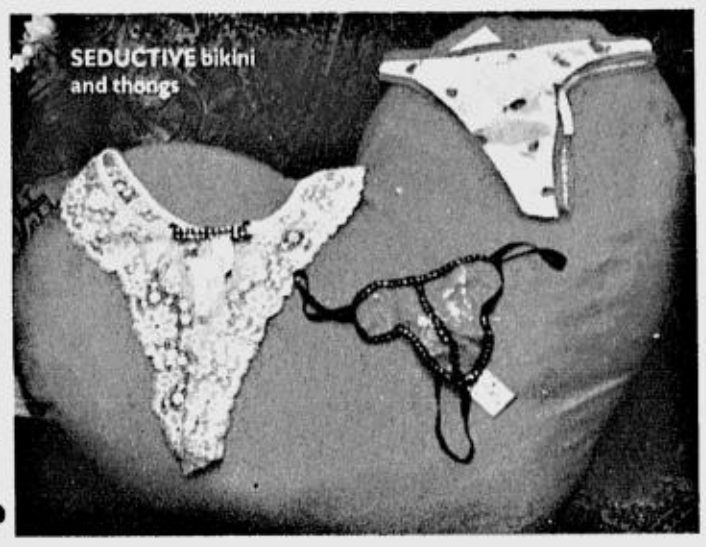

LIGHT my fire, baby.


SEDUCTIVE bikini and thongs

Designer sex, anyone?

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MIAN Topacio

From page E1

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A DEN of small but sexy treasures

Catering to women's needs

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SHUNGA bath and shower gel

ORIENTAL Crystals Scented Dead Sea Salt from Shunga (above) and Wet aromatherapy massage oil (below)

WILLIE Warmers

Addicted to phone sex with ex

LIVE AND LET LIVE

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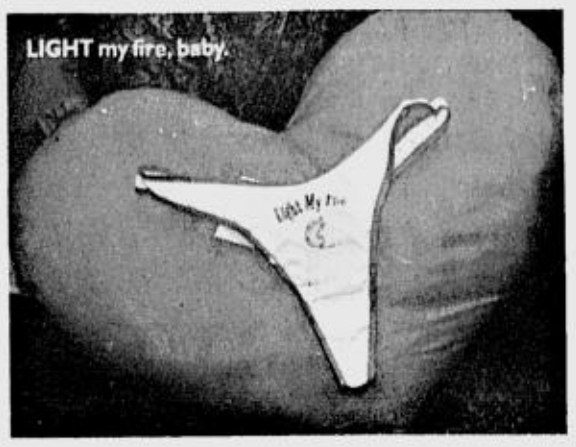

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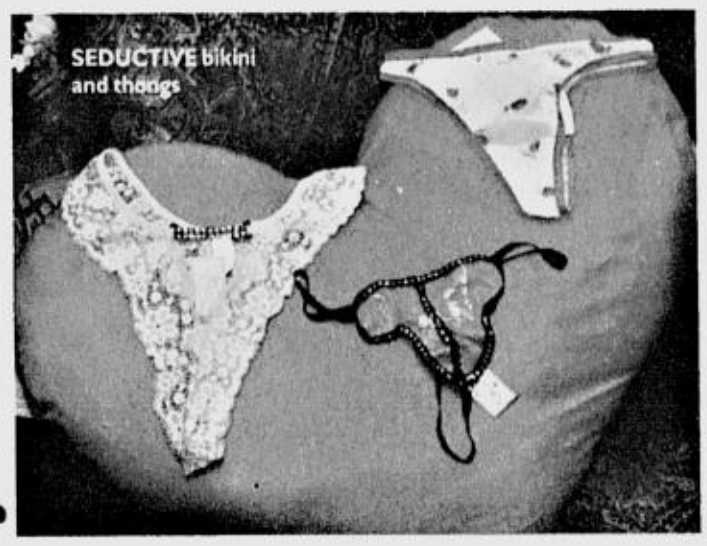

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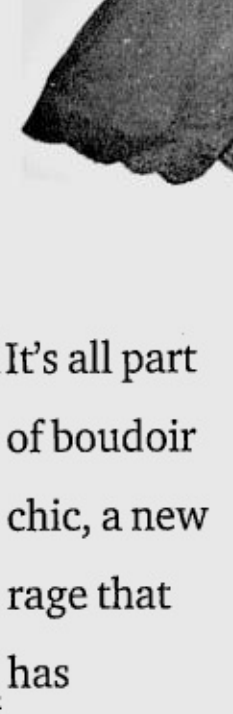

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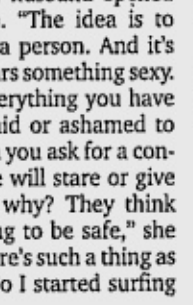

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Boracay resort's special Valentine offer

PINK Patio Resort on Boracay Island has a special package for Valentine.

Priced at P4,999 net per person, the package includes three days, two nights accommodation; breakfasts; free dinner on the first night round-trip airport transfers via Kalibo or Caticlan airport, free registration fee for Love on the Rock Wall Climbing Challenge for couples and free bottle of wine. Women guests get Pinko stuffed bears.

The wall climbing challenge will start on Valentine's Day. There will be separate categories for men and women.

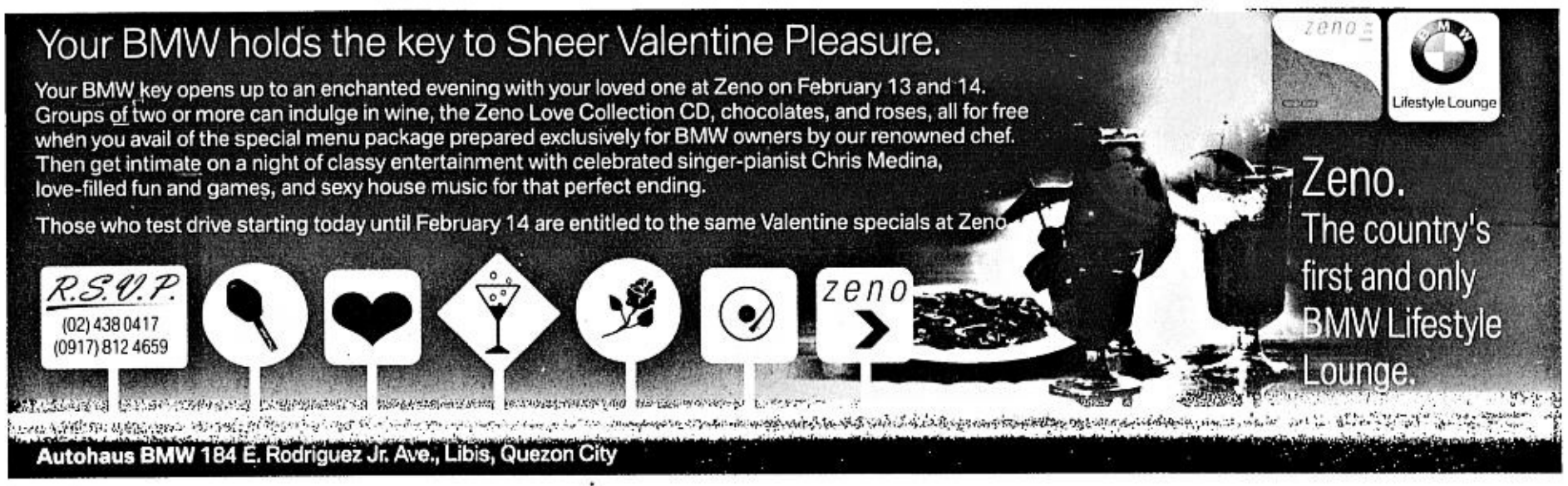
Participants who are not resort guests will be charged a minimal registration fee.

Participating couples will climb the wall and collect as many hearts as they can. Special prizes are at stake.

The resort will also host the "Love On the Rocks II" competition. Participating are Brent International School, NVC Int'l School and Balabag National High School.

Pink Patio is the 2000 Kalakbay Resort of the Year Award winner for Region VII.

Call 8452222 to 27.



Good news for those suffering from lactose intolerance

Are you experiencing gas or bloating, abdominal pain or diarrhea 30 minutes to 2 hours after ingesting dairy products? If you are, then you might have lactose intolerance.

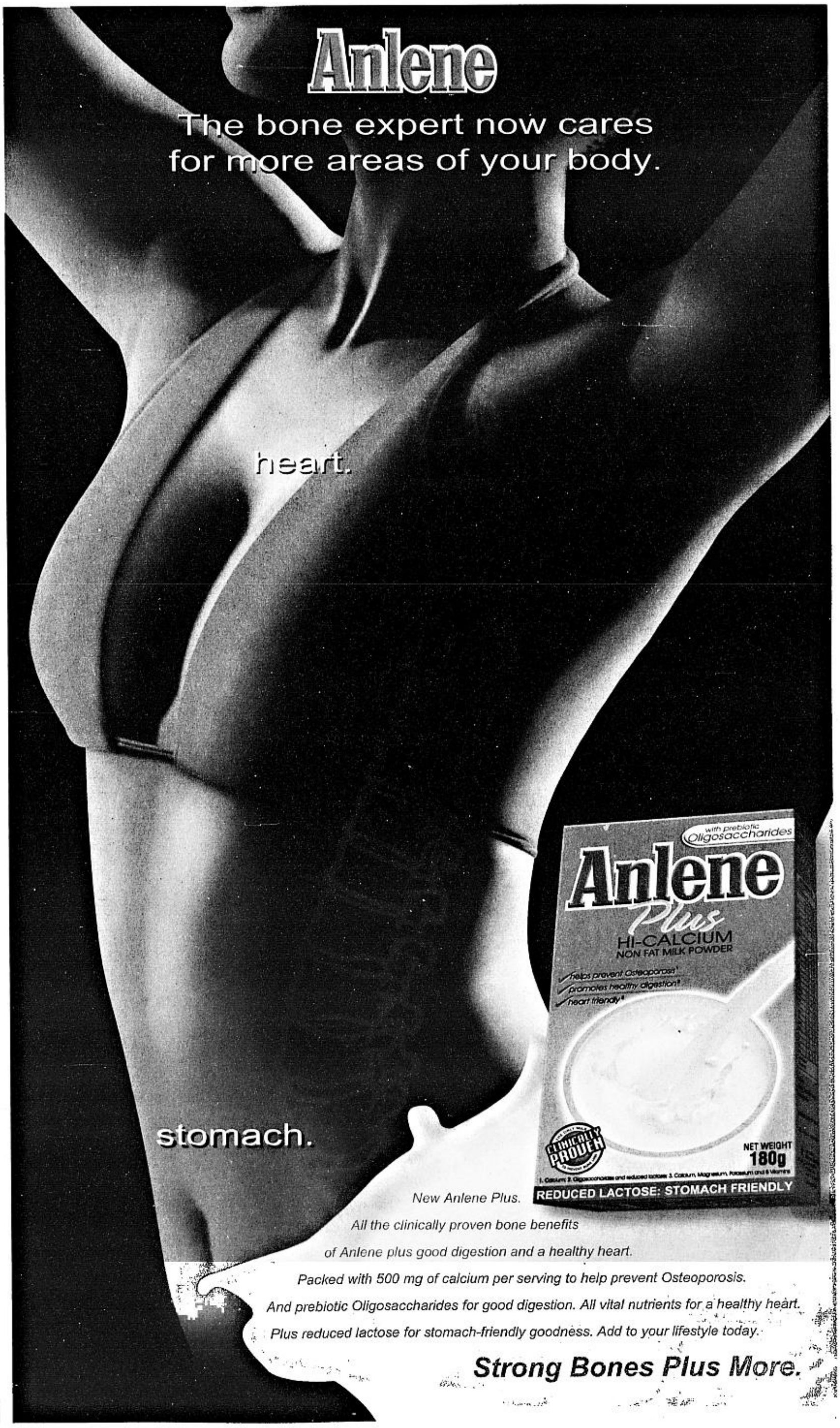
Lactose intolerance is the body's inability to digest significant amounts of lactose which is found in milk. This happens when your body has a shortage of the enzyme lactase which is normally produced in the small intestine. Lactase is responsible for breaking down milk sugar into simpler forms for easy absorption into the bloodstream. When there is not enough lactase to digest the amount of lactose consumed, the results can be pretty distressing.

It is possible to consume small quantities of dairy products without experiencing the distressing symptoms. If you are lactose intolerant, all you have to do is determine your lactose consumption limit by keeping track of what you eat or drink. You can do this by writing down any of the symptoms mentioned above and learn how much and what kind of dairy products you can safely digest.

You can also try lactose reduced milk and dairy products available in supermarkets They still contain lactose, but are easily digested because the lactose content has been significantly lowered. One such product in the market now is Anlene Plus. Anlene Plus has all the goodness of milk to keep your bones strong but has reduced lactose content. Not only that, it also contains prebiotic Oligosaccharides which help support the growth of good bacteria needed for keeping the digestive system healthy.

Anlene Plus has also calcium, magnesium, potassium and B vitamins for keeping your heart healthy. You get more nutrients and benefits in a milk that also tastes great. It's definitely something that you should add to your lifestyle today.

ADVT



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Over ₱3.5 million in cool, cool prizes!

GRAND PRIZE UP FOR GRABS

Grand Prize - March 1, 2004

House and lot with new Ford Escape in the garage!

Cool daily and weekly prizes!

- Philips Real Flat TV
- Philips 64mb Camera
- Philips MP3 Player
- Philips Audio
- Philips DVD Player
- Dickies Bags
- Changhong Aircon
- M&M Dispensers

Get a chance to win a house & lot with a new Ford Escape in the garage, plus other cool prizes in the daily and weekly draws!

Simply download Smart zed services (ringtones, icons, MMX, graphics and tone-based services) and you're automatically qualified for the daily, weekly and top raffle draws.

For a chance to win, register:

Type YULE JOIN <name>/<address>

Send to 288.

A confirmation message will be sent to you.

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Download the following and earn points:

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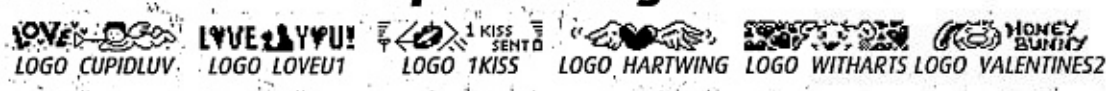
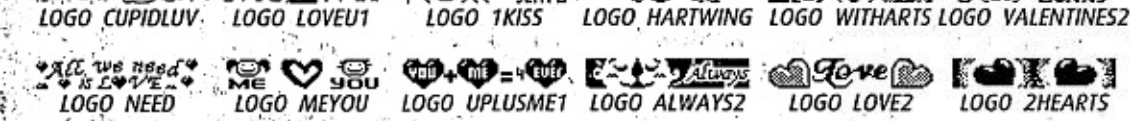
	₱30.00 service 12 entries/delivery	
	Java Games	

Operator Logos



Picture Messages



Ringtones

LOVE TONES	ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORDS
It Might Be You	Stephen Bishop	**TONE MYTBU**
So Slow	Freestyle	**TONE SOSLOW**
Til I Found You	Freestyle	**TONE TILIFOUNDU**
Kahit Kailan	South Border	**TONE KAHITKLAN**
Be My Lady	Martin Nievera	**TONE BMYLADY**
Wala Kang Katulad	Ariel Rivera	**TONE WKATULAD**
Forever's Not Enough	Sarah Geronimo	**TONE 4EVERSNOT**
Don't Know What To Say	Ric Sigreto	**TONE WAT2SAY**
Dahil Tanging Ikaw	Jaya	**TONE DAHIL**
Still	Brian Mcknight	**TONE STILL**
Back At One	Brian McKnight	**TONE BACKAT1**
Angel	Sarah Mclachlan	**TONE ANGEL**
Head Over Feet	Alanis Morisette	**TONE HEADFEET**
Love Song For No One	John Mayer	**TONE SONG4NO1**
Your Body Is A Wonderland	John Mayer	**TONE URBODY**
Ain't No Mountaun High Enough	Various Artists	**TONE AINTNO**
Always Something There	Naked Eyes	**TONE SUMTINDER**
I Say A Little Prayer	My Bestfriend's Wedding	**TONE SAYALIL**
I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing	Mett Serlitia	**TONE MISATING**
Broken Vow	Lara Fabian	**TONE BROKEN**
Can't Lose You	F4	**TONE CANTLOSE**
A Thousand Miles	Vanessa Carlton	**TONE THOUSAND**
Be With You	Atomic Kitten	**TONE BEWITH**
Cry	Mandy Moore	**TONE CRY1**
I Wanna Be With You	Mandy Moore	**TONE IWANNAB**
I'll Be	Edwin McCain	**TONE IBE**
Best In Me	Blue	**TONE BESTINME**
Crazy Little Thing Called Love	Michael Buble	**TONE CRAZYL**
Moonshadow	Mandy Moore	**TONE MSHADOW**
Bakit Di Totohanin	Carol Banawa	**TONE BAKITDI**

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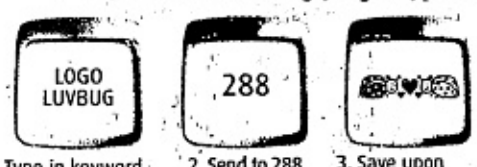

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To send logo, tone, picture message or mms graphic to a friend, type **<keyword> <cellphone number>** and send to 288.

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To send a tone,
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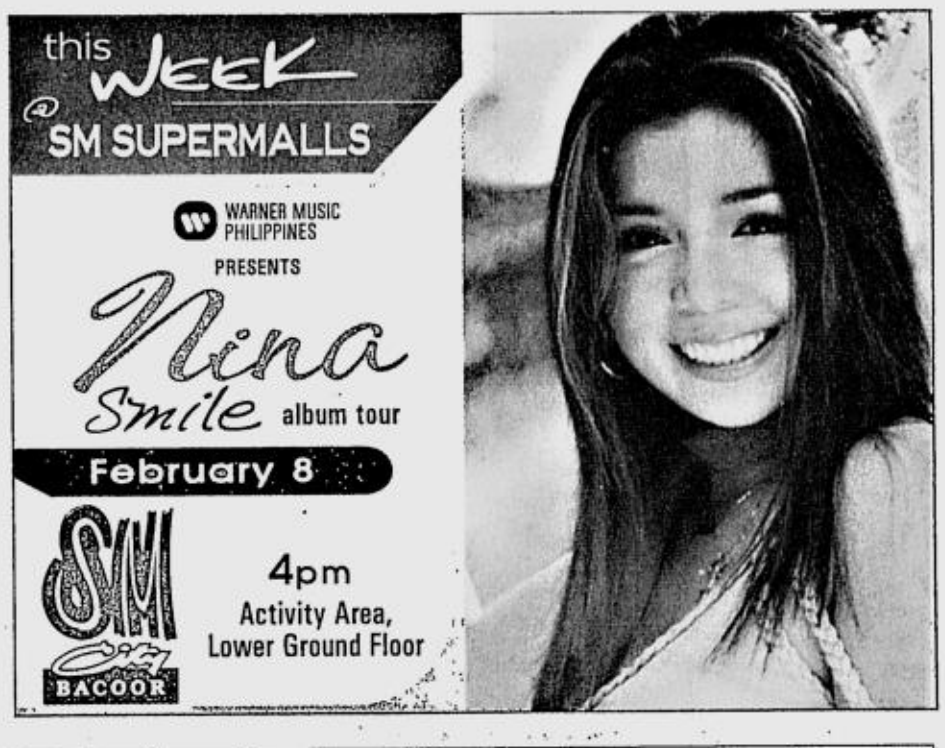
Weddings Engagements

THE JOSE BROOD. Jayjay, newlyweds Justin and Chie, Beajay and Arjay with mom Rowena

CHIE and Justin Irwin

A courtship that began in Sydney ends in a Manila wedding



JOSE-IRWIN NUPTIALS

Irish charm proves irresistible to Fil-Aussie lass

By Maurice Arcache

IT was as romantic as a love song, *palanggas*, the meeting and courtship of vivaciously attractive Pacita Christina "Chie" A. Jose, *unica hija* of Rowena N. Aquino and hubby Bayani L. Jose, who hails from Sydney by way of Manila, and good-looking charmer George Andrew Justin Irwin, a native of Donegal, Ireland.

The pair met while both were working in Sydney. Chie was taking a break from university and Justin was traveling throughout Australia on a year-long break, after graduating from Queen's University, Belfast.

Justin still remembers that Chie's first words to him were "Happy Birthday, Justin," and Chie vaguely remembers describing him to friends as "cute... like a bulldog." After months of conspiring with pals and co-workers, Justin finally asked Chie out. A year later, the pair moved to Ireland where Justin, who turned down an internship in one of Northern Ireland's top law firms, was set to join the family business.

But after a year of missing the city lights, night life and fog, Chie moved to London where she stayed for a year and a half, maintaining a "not-so-long-distance" relationship. Justin proposed on one of their many weekends together. Yes, dahlings, right on St. Patrick's Day.

It was a piece of pie planning the wedding in Manille. But nothing came easy after that!

Super organizer

It took a year of phone calls from Ireland to London to Sydney and Manille, countless e-mail messages, traveling halfway around the world and a lot of hard work by Chie's super tense mother, gorgeous Rowena.

They soon found out that it was not as easy as they thought for a Catholic Australian citizen and an Irish Protestant to get married in the Philippines.

And to make things even harder, the bride and her mother decided not to get a wedding planner and to take care of the minutest details—from bridesmaids' elaborate headdresses, which the bride herself made, to the flavor for the wedding cake.

And, by the way *palanggas*, the cake's beautifully crafted gumpaste flowers were all handmade by Perfectmatch Flowers, owned by the bride's aunt, Bying Ayson-Aquino, and designed by Penk and Shen.

Chie looked radiant in her simple but elegant Patis Tesoro *piña* bridal gown. The gold and diamond tiara on her coiffed long hair was an heirloom. It belonged to her late "nana", Refugio "Puring" N. Aquino, and was worn in the wedding in the early '70s of Chie's godmother and aunt, Rosita A. Ramos.

At 3 p.m. at the Santuario de

IRISH/ F2

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THE GROOM with his gorgeous and eye-catching mom, Hilary Irwin

SPONSOR Linaflor de los Santos, the bride's aunt

SPONSORS Ramon Dee and Becky A. Bantug

THE TEARY-EYED "Papa of the bride," Bayani Jose, with one of the sponsors, Makati Mayor Jojo Binay

Irish charm

From page F1

San Antonio in Forbes Park, the teary eyed mom of the bride watched the apple of her eye walk down the aisle to meet her and her husband halfway to the altar.

All in the family

The principal sponsors were either aunts and uncles or dear family friends, like Rocio P. Baltao, Cindy R. Velez, Babydoll N. Aquino, Grace L. Jose, Flor J. de los Santos, Belle L. Ongpin, Babette R. Jose, Rosita A. Ramos, who was proxied by sister Becky A. Bantug; former Environment Secretary Sonny Alvarez; Rep. "Kuya" Willie Villarama; Rowena's badminton-mate, Makati's dynamic Mayor Jejomar Binay; David Wuson; Raul N. Aquino; Dr. Mike L. Jose; Bob S. Aquino and Ramon M. Dee.

In lieu of a maid of honor, the bride's brother, Raphael "Arjay" who lives in Sydney, was "gentleman of honor." Justin's best mate, Declan Bright, who jetted in from Ireland, was best man.

Bridesmaids were cousins and close pals who came from three continents, save for one, so bridesmaids' dress fittings with Mila Dava was a horrific nightmare, *dahlings*! They were Hazel P. Baltao, May Tagalog, Leia A. Aquino, Jessica Irwin, Charisse Aquino and Regina Aquino.

Junior bridesmaids were Camille A. Alquiros, Samantha Aquino and Amanda A. Bantug.

The Irish contingent was headed by the groom's mother, a tall, gorgeous blonde looker, Hilary Irwin. The groomsmen were also close mates of Justin, such as bearded, long-haired Paul Bustard, Gavan McKenna and Colin Finnegan; and Chie's other younger brothers—Joseph 'Jayjay," who also resides in Sydney and who just graduated from the University of Technology, Sydney; and Bernard "Beajay."

Ring and coin bearers were Chie's nephews, Xavier Aquino and Ramone "Ziggy" Aquino, who were adorable in their little barongs as they walked proudly

IRISH/ F3

STUNNING SISTERS. Babydoll and Rowena Aquino congratulate the newlyweds at the reception.

DAVID Wuson with the bride's aunt, Bying Aquino

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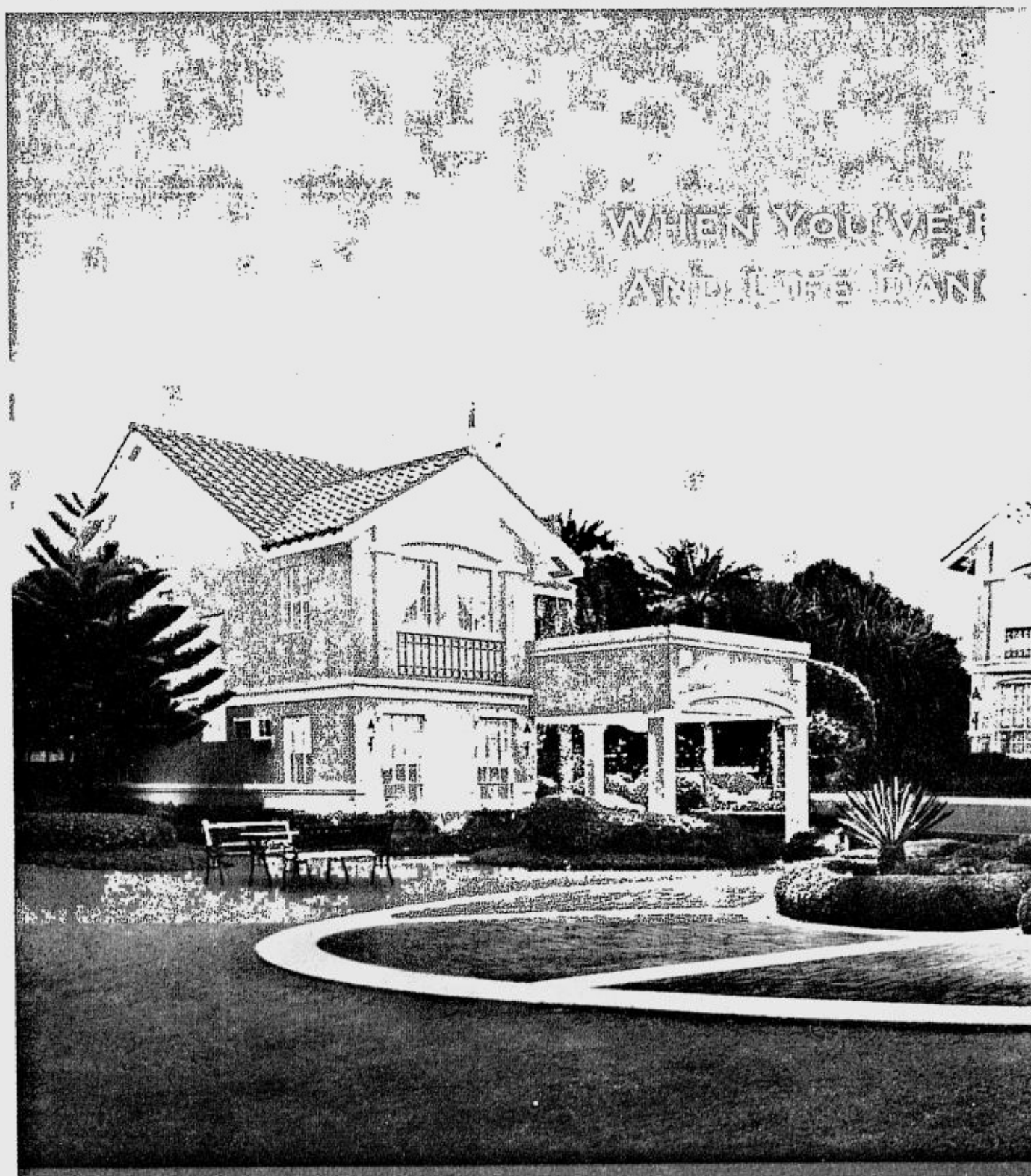

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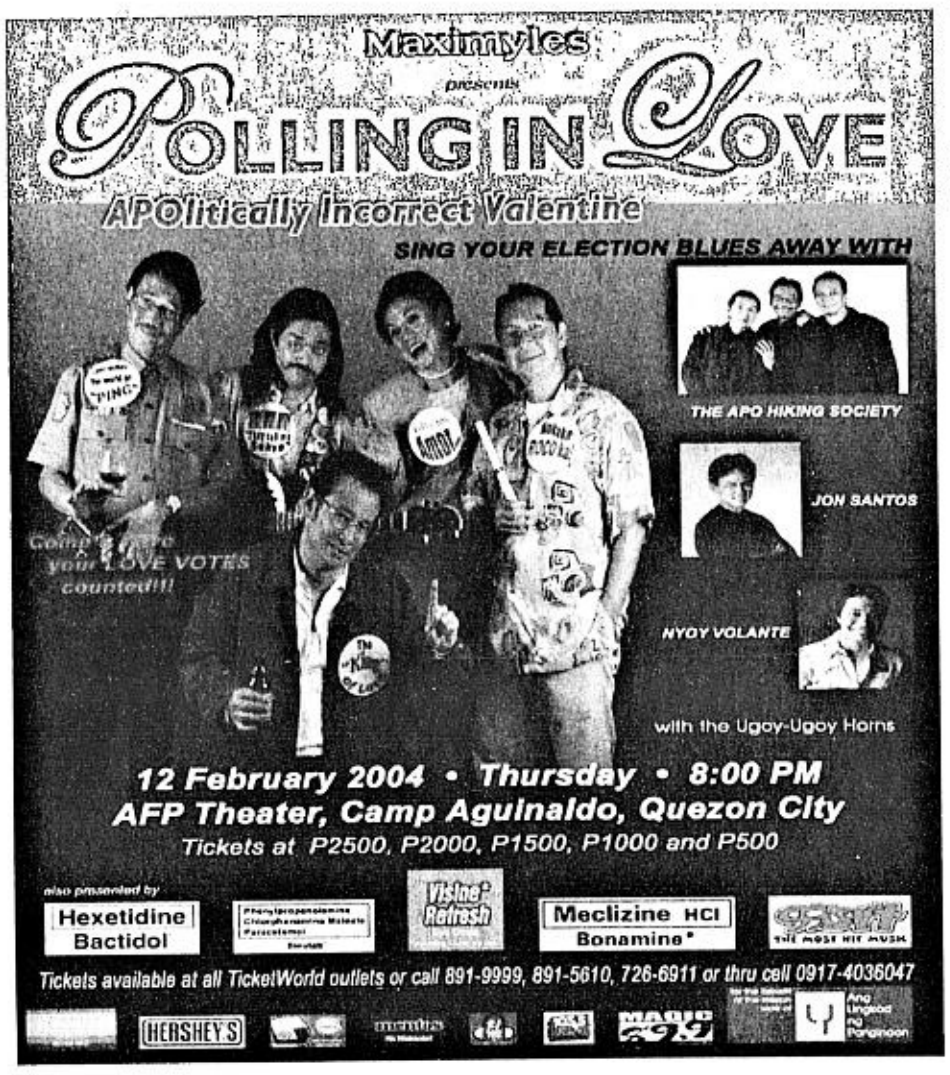
GUESTS included: (standing) Pauline Chua; (seated) Jojo and Henry Zabarte, Eva Abesamis and Citoy Lopez, all friends of the bride's mom, Rowena.

WITH THE ENTIRE Jose and Aquino clans



Irish charm proves irresistible

From page F2

down the aisle.

The decision to have the reception at the Peninsula Manila was definitely Justin's. The super reliable, *tres* professional staff, led by Marivic Marquez, made the occasion worth the trouble of jetting halfway across the world. Justin's entire famille and pals from Ireland and Sydney, Australia (all 24 of them!), not to mention Chie's very own aunt, Rose "Babydoll" N. Aquino, vice president of World Travel Partners BTI in Atlanta, and daughter Regina N. Aquino, together with her fiancé, Robert Richards of Washington DC, decided to make the Pen their home during their visit.

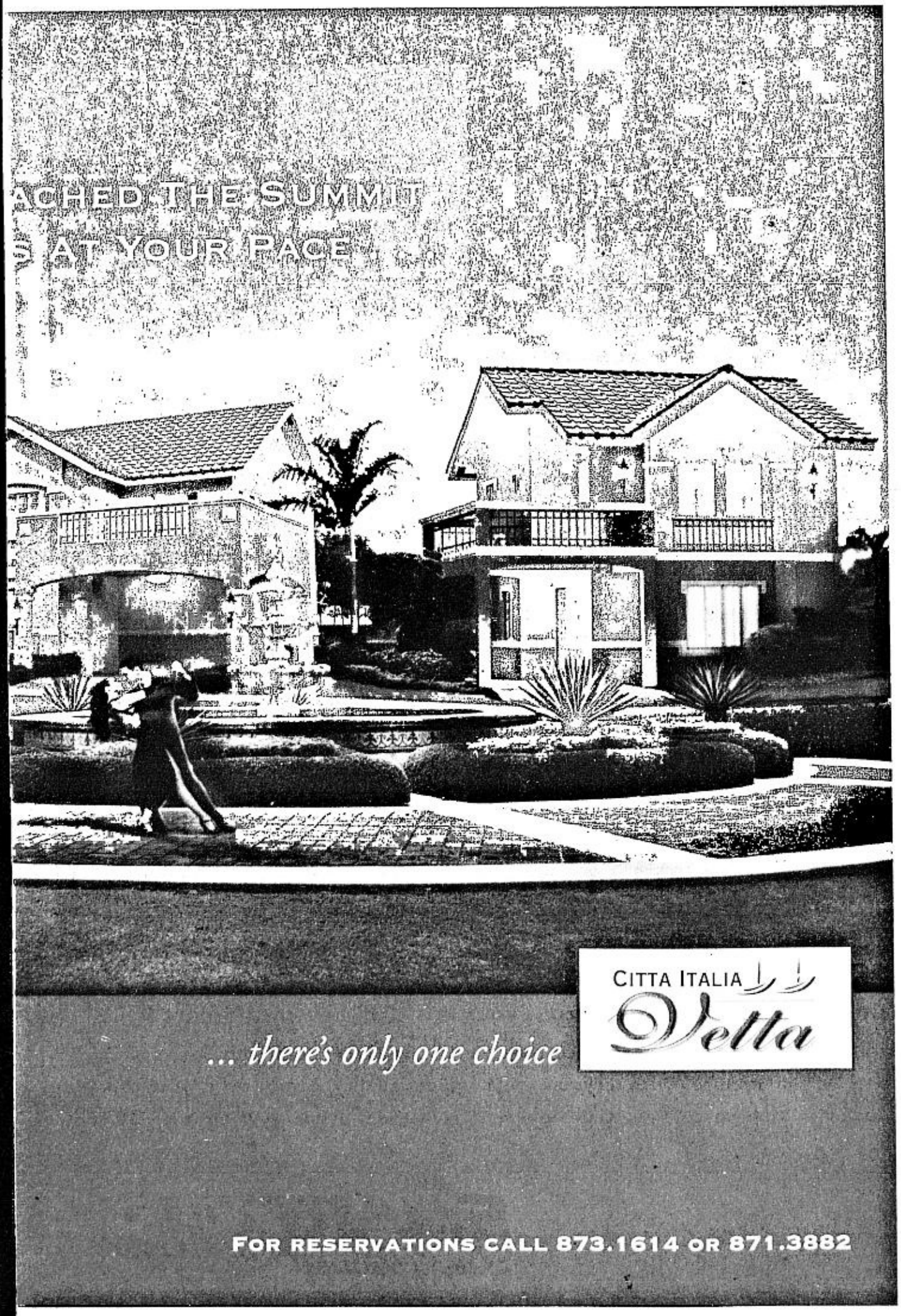
The invitees were serenaded by Bernie Pasamba's string quartet, who played soothing sounds over dinner. They later rocked the dance floor to the swinging beat of Rocking Revival, with the bride and groom leading the pack, boogying with the best of them, until 3 a.m. As a typical Irish would say, "The craic was mighty!"

Whatever that means, I bet it's real cool.

Cheers, *palanggas!*

BELLES of the ball. Super pals Andie Torres and cousin Monette Alquiros

EAST meets west. Jessica Irwin, the groom's sister, with the bride's brother Jayjay Jose



Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

SANTOS-FABRICANTE

Richard Q. Santos, son of **Remedios** and the late **Arturo Santos** (represented by the groom's uncle, **Edgardo Querijero** of Lucena City), tied the knot with **Ula Maria P. Fabricante,** daughter of **Adelina** and the late **Roberto Fabricante** (represented by the bride's brother, **Ric Fabricante** of Goa, Camarines Sur), on Jan. 31 at the St. Jude Thaddeus Parish Church, Naga City.

BORDEAUX-ABLAZA

Judith Melissa Ablaza, daughter of **Ernesto** and **Zoilita Ablaza** of Pasig City, exchanged vows with **Robert Joseph Bordeaux**, son of **Gerald Joseph** and **Catherine Bordeaux** of Ashtabula, Ohio, United States, on Dec. 27 at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception followed at the Davao Room of the Westin Philippine Plaza. The couple will reside in Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

ROBAS-DEL REMEDIO

John Robas, son of **Job** and **Alice Robas** of Liliw, Laguna, tied the knot with **Elizel del Remedio**, daughter of **Ely** and the late **Liz del Remedio** of the University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City, on Dec. 20 at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine, New Manila, QC.

Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, officiated. Chorus Paulinus sang *a capella* pieces selected by the couple. Reception was held at the Mt. Carmel Social Hall.

MAGDANGAL-LA PEÑA

Dancor James Magdangal, son of **Dante** and **Corazon Magdangal**, tied the knot with **Arlene La Peña**, daughter of **Rodrigo** and **Felomena la Peña**, on Jan. 4 at the St. Pancratius Chapel, Paco Park, Manila. Fr. **Jerry Orbos**, SVD, officiated. Reception followed at the Paco Park Garden.

The bridal gown was of duchess satin with embroidery beadwork and silver-threaded accents with scattered Swarovski crystals all over. It had a detachable 1.5-meter train, and a 5-meter veil. The wedding motif was canary yellow.

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THE YOUNG crooner once again charms the Philippine audience.

REINVENTING the cheongsam. Danny dela Cuesta, Dennis Lustico, Gerry Katigbak and Jojie Lloren

THE PINOY-LOVING Michael Bublé

Bubbling with Bublé; charming in a cheongsam

LAWYER Ricardo Romulo and PDI chairperson Marixi Prieto

ADB executive director Paul Speltz and wife Renee in Chinese get-ups

ELEGANT couple Ambassador Jesus and Margarita Tambunting

NICE modern Chinese look for Menchu and Raul Concepcion

LILY blossoms Jessica Puyat and Wendy Hotung

LUCKY charms from Yin & Yang. Richie Fernandez, Princesse Fernandez and Mikey Narciso

DESIGNER Randy Ortiz with fashion director Jackie Aquino

SEXY Lynn Sherman with the UP Jazz Ensemble

If Michael Bublé can love the Philippines, why can't we?

SO WHAT'S the fuss about **Michael Bublé**? Is it because this modern-day **Frank Sinatra**-style crooner has expressed his outright love for Pinoys (and is rumored to have his heart and soul set on a particular lady from Assumption College)? Or is it his ability to charm men and women with his variety of songs from **George Michael** to **Michael Jackson**? Or that he can make the audience laugh with his version of the "Mr. Suave" song whilst dancing the *otso-otso*?

There is a big fuss because Michael Bublé has an incredible voice. It's talent that sets him apart, and all the other assets like his handsome features, sense of humor and charm are just added extras that set him apart even further. So when my belly-dancing goddess classmate, **Maryanne Lumen**, invited me to the special Michael Bublé concert in Meralco Theater to celebrate Joey 92.3 FM's fifth anniversary, I made sure I was there to watch Michael for the second time.

Although I was sitting in the last row of the theater, as compared to the first row in last year's PICC concert, the effect was no less different: Michael's baritone warmly embraced every seat in the house. He was also funnier and clearly much more comfortable with his Pinoy audience. If he sticks around any longer, he can run for President. At least we can get first-rate entertainment for all the foreign delegates that visit our country.

Smart Infinity was being launched that evening, too, so there were lots of silver-painted models and tulip-wielding flower ladies to set the tone to this new, by-invitation-only phone plan. Of course, not to be outdone by these human set designs, I came in a **Rajo Laurel**, hot-pink gown accentuated by a multicolor horsehair ribbon structure. I looked like the after-show present for Michael but unfortunately, I couldn't stick around as I had event No. 2 to rush to.

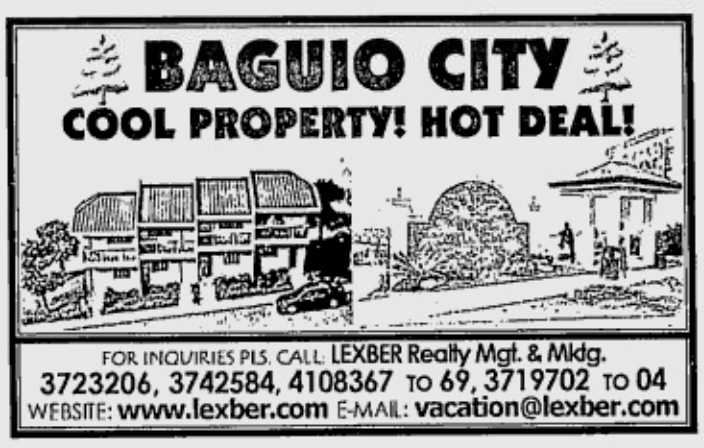
Reinventing the cheongsam

I did a quick, whilst-in-traffic costume enhancement to transform my outfit into Chinese-chic for the HSBC Premier and Asia Society Chinese New Year Celebration. To do this, I draped a red, wall-hanging décor with a jade medallion onto my gown. I had purchased that décor and many other Chinese costumes during a Shanghai trip a couple of years ago. The embroidery from China is just so intricate and beautiful. Perfect to achieve that tai-tai feeling.

The Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines (FDCP) took the typical cheongsam further and restructured it. Commissioned by HSBC, an exhibit was held in the Power Plant Mall and the FDCP designers came up with excellent creations in interesting shapes and fabrics. The stunning, red-beaded creation by Cebuano designer **Jun Escario** was the Red MasterCard Cheongsam of Choice.

Of course, I already talked to half of the talented designers to make a miniature version of the gowns for my future events. When I say miniature, I mean Sea Princess-size, since the gowns are designed for model figures and heights. If I simply altered the gowns by trimming them to my

BUBBLING/ G2



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Savemore Supermarket opened its doors to Alabang residents last February 6, 2004 at the Festival Supermall. Great grocery shopping, in-store promotions and live performances by top film stars and music artists marked the momentous occasion.

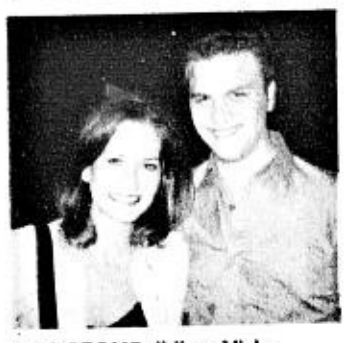
Exciting activities and promotions continue to delight shoppers even after the opening week. Savemore Supermarket offers its patrons a chance to indulge in its special opening promo called "TIMEOUT TREATS". During the whole month of February, salon makeovers, spa treatments and overnight hotel accommodations will be up for grabs during the weekly draw of "Timeout Treats".

For a minimum purchase of P500.00 worth of groceries in the Savemore Festival Mall branch, customers are entitled to one raffle coupon. Any purchase of selected Procter and Gamble Products, also entitles the customer to an extra raffle coupon.

SM Advantage Card Holders can avail of an extra raffle coupon by just presenting their card at the promo booth.

Thirty lucky shoppers can win salon makeovers during the first weekly draw, while 30 gift certificates at The Spa will be raffled off on the second week. The grand draw will pick 30 winners of overnight hotel accommodations at the Bellevue Hotel.

We hope to see you there! Savemore Supermarket is located at Level 1 Toll Wing of the Festival Mall, Filinvest Corporate City.


GORGEOUS siblings Vicky Soriano and Christian Hagedorn

REENA Angeles and Mely Hechanova

BASIL Ong and HSBC's Laine Santana

CHEONGSAM innovators Frederick Peralta and Vic Barba

FASCINATING friends Gina Lopez and Ernest Escaler

AUTHENTIC Chinese outfit on Josie Sy, with husband Ramon

Bubbling with Bublé; charming in a cheongsam

LOVELY ladies at the Bublé concert. Debbie Tan, Meldy Cojuangco and Mercy Tuason

WOMEN of style and substance. HSBC's Marilen Ruiz, Monique Villonco, Tina Ocampo and Anita Magsaysay-Ho

From page G1

height, the whole lower half and all that beautiful embroidery would be removed. This would be the case especially for my personal favorite, the lovely gown Vic Barba made, wherein the silver Chinese accent was in the entire lower half.

Too bad modern medicine and technology are still not capable of increasing height. This should be just around the corner as doctors have already figured out how to augment breasts, faces and cellulite. I can just imagine a still-to-come future where my daughter Annika will be 6 ft tall despite her 5-ft tall genes.

As I entered the NBC Tent at the Fort (very late as always), I was brought back to Shanghai's Golden Era, an age of abundance, change and rebirth. The entrance was a hawkers market with awesome finds from Lily, Noble House Antiques, Tiffany & Co., and Yin & Yang. I was in paradise at 11 p.m. In fact, the shops were all, well, closing shop! But I was able to do some last-minute shopping using my HSBC Red MasterCard.

My husband, **Dennis**, had to content himself with some deep conversation with **Wendy Hotung**'s husband, **Tony**, while us wives scavenged through the unique and original accessories of **Arnel Papa**, who makes necklaces, bangles and earrings out of unconventional materials like buffalo horns and hooves, copper, shells and pearls. His pieces are strung in larger-than-life settings that make them such standouts. In short, they are so me! And Wendy loved them, too!

BEST in costume. INQUIRER Super's Tim Yap

HSBC CEO Warner Manning, Bill Luz and HSBC deputy CEO Martin Cook in their Chinese-inspired barongs, with Julie Manning

SOARING Cebuano talents. Designers Jun Escario, Simon Miles, David Baer and my fave southern fashion guru, OJ Hafer

POWERFUL men and a babe. Smart bigwigs Manny Pangilinan and Boy Martirez, with Francis Lumen of NBC and Sea Princess

PARTY hosts. Lily and James Benoit, and Doris Ho of Asia Society

I got so carried away, I almost forgot to greet the hosts, **Warner Manning**, HSBC CEO, and his lovely wife **Julie**. They had told me about how the evening went with jazz singer **Lynn Sherman** and feng-shui master **Joseph Chau**. And from the excellent turnout of guests, most of whom even came in costume, they were so pleased with the evening's festivities.

Needless to say, INQUIRER Super's **Tim Yap** was my Best in Costume. Aside from his tasseled Chinese hat (which he had originally planned on giving me), Tim had a red tie and oriental obi, which blended perfectly with his best Chinese accent feature—his eyes. Too bad we both missed the dinner and show, but we both made our presence felt as we bade "babye," said with as authentic a Hong Kong accent as we could muster, to the remaining guests.

Laurel and patriotism

So what's written in the stars for the country in the Year of the Monkey? At the wake of former VP **Doy Laurel**, Fr. **Jerry Orbos** shared a beautiful homily on how important it is to restore the virtue of love of country in all of us. He said that VP Laurel was a great politician and exemplified pride in being Filipino. His shining moment truly was his selfless sacrifice in stepping aside to consolidate a ticket under **Cory Aquino**, an act that resonates in the history of our nation.

I felt so inspired after that Mass, I called up my new designer friend Arnel, to make me a stylized Pinoy flag accessory so I could be inspired to become more patriotic. We all have to start somewhere.

After all, if Canadian-born Michael Bublé can love the Philippines so much, why can't we love our very own nation even more?

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

SEXY belly dancing classmates Maryanne Lumen and Ana Buenaventura with Susan Joven

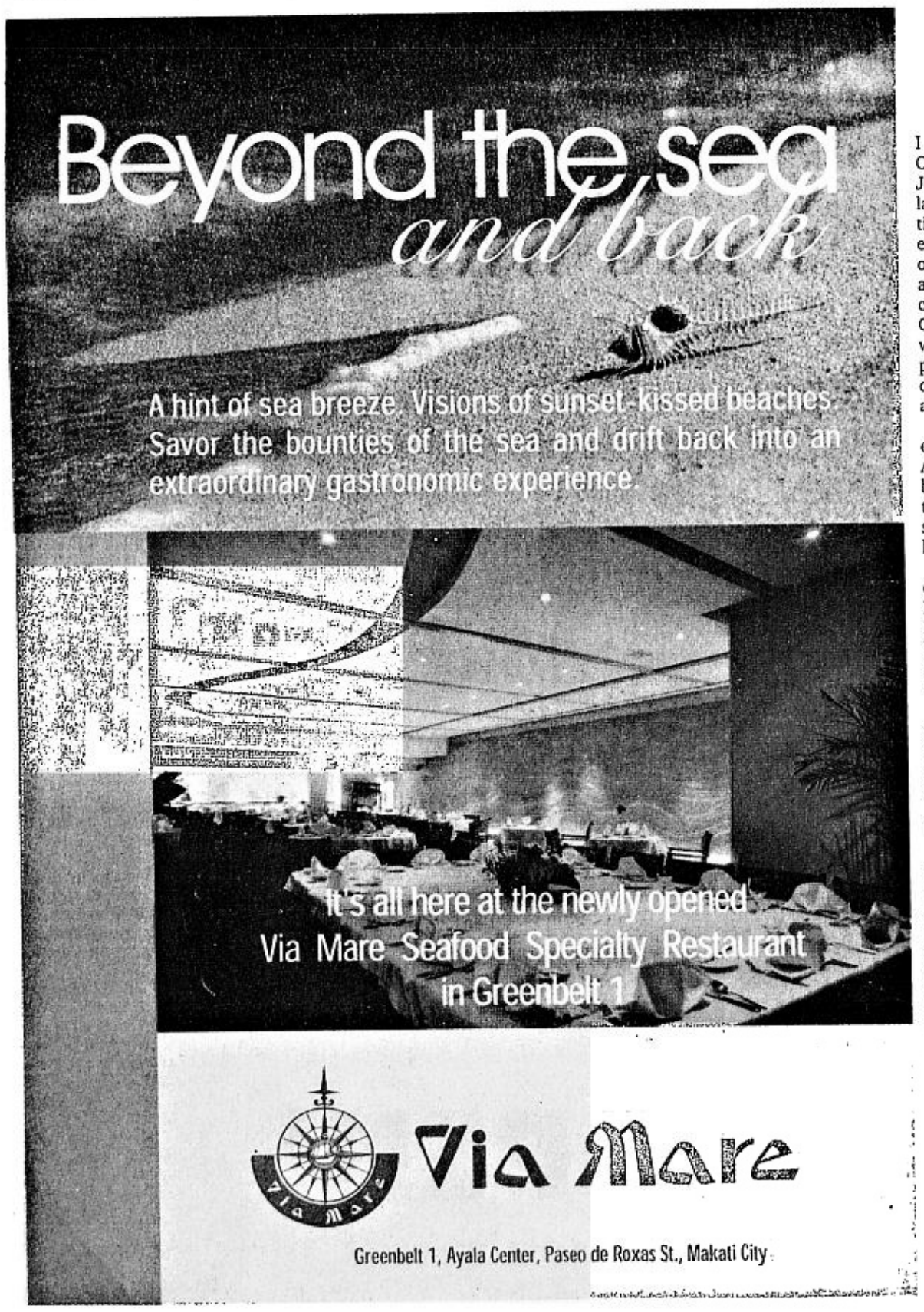


Image of Virgin in Jaro church draws devotees

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

I ATTENDED the fiesta of Our Lady of Candelaria in Jaro, Iloilo, for the first time last Monday on the invitation of Robert Lopez-Puckett. It was amazing to find out that the miraculous image enthroned in the balcony at the front of the Jaro Cathedral had grown not only taller but wider. Msgr. Amadeo Escañan, the parish priest, showed me the Virgin's crown that didn't fit anymore because her forehead had also grown wider.

The people in Western Visayas, which covers Iloilo and the rest of Panay Island (Capiz, Aklan and Antique) and Negros Occidental, believed in her miraculous intercession so thousands attended the fiesta Masses. People spilled out into the courtyard because the huge cathedral couldn't accommodate them.

Tom Griffin, another guest of Robert Puckett, accompanied me to the church for the High Mass. Thirty priests concelebrated in the High Mass officiated by Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, who said "we should think and imagine holding the light of the world (Jesus Christ) in our hearts."

The people sang in Ilonggo "Virgin Sang Candelaria" composed by Gilbert Pirante. I asked Miraflor Lopez-Vito, wife of a former congressman, for a translation which I am sharing with readers.

Virgin of Candles

"Virgin of candles, help us/light our path, show us your light/help us achieve our desire for peace so that we may have unity/Oh Virgin of Candles, we believe that only through you, we may understand that only Jesus is our way to salvation/Oh Virgin of Candles who brighten our way/Jesus on your lap, King of Kings, Savior of mankind, bless this our beloved parish with more graces/Oh Virgin, help us with Jesus/intercede for us."

History of 'Candelaria'

The historic stone image of the Our Lady of the Candles is enshrined in St. Elizabeth's Cathedral, Jaro, Iloilo City. The image shows Our Lady carrying a candle in her right hand. Her left hand carries the child holding a globe.

According to the traditional story, a fisherman found a foot-high image in the Iloilo River in 1587. Though small, the image was so heavy that 10 men could not lift it. After the people notified the priest and decided to take the image to the church, one man was able to carry it.

In 1874, Jaro became a diocese and a cathedral was built. When the image was about to be transferred inside the cathedral, it rained, the thunderstorm and lightning continuing for a whole week. It was decided to just put the image in the uppermost niche of the façade of the cathedral overlooking the plaza so that Our Lady might "reign over the town as its Protectress."

In the beginning, people kept a vigil lamp to light the image, a practice that later stopped.

According to the vicar general and parish priest of Jaro, Msgr. M. Gamboa, Our Lady herself reminded the people about this neglect. The story goes that Chinese ran a *sari-sari* store across the church plaza. One night, a beautiful lady with long hair came and said: "I want to buy oil because my son has no light."

The store owner became curious and decided to follow the woman. He saw her bathing her child in the artesian well just across from the church plaza. He decided to go home but when he was about to leave, the lady disappeared. He turned around and looked at the top of the church, which started to blaze with light. The beautiful lady was there at the Virgin's niche. The man was converted. His descendants still maintain a *sari-sari* store across the plaza.

Between 1921-1939, during the time of Msgr. Luis Capalla, the Lady would disappear from her niche and would be seen bathing her child in the artesian well. People who washed themselves in the waters of the well were healed of their aches and pains.

In 1981, Pope John Paul II crowned the image of the Our Lady of the Candles and the Divine Infant. The coronation ceremony was the greatest religious event in the history of Panay. Declared as Patroness of Western Visayas, her feast is celebrated on Feb. 2, also Our Lady's Day of Purification.

Inspired by the Virgin

Msgr. Amadeo Escañan said his desire to become a priest was inspired and nurtured by the Our Lady of Candelaria. The son of a poor farmer, the priest finished his studies at the St. Vincent Ferrer Seminary through the help of a benefactor. He always asked the Virgin to make him a good priest. He has been a priest for 33 years.

IMAGE/ G3

Image of Virgin in Jaro church draws devotees

From page G2

The 'palapak'

A tradition called *palapak* means the Virgin "steps" on you as a sign of blessing. Not knowing where to go for it, I asked the Virgin to show me a sign that my prayers would be answered if I went through the *palapak*. When I left the church after the Mass, a seminarian was placing a small image of the Virgin on people. I had my *palapak*.

I came back to Manila overwhelmed by the faith of the people who stood patiently on the sides of the church and outside during the Mass. My faith in Mama Mary's intercession for all our problems was intensified. I certainly will return to Jaro, Iloilo, in thanksgiving for prayers answered.

THE GROWING Our Lady of Candelaria of Jaro, Iloilo

Healing of family tree

The Pro-Life Philippines and Blessed Margaret Castello Movement will hold a Holy Mass and healing of the family tree at 5:30 p.m., Feb. 12, in Sto. Domingo Church. Celebrant and healer is Fr. Arnold Boehme, OCD.

Healing Mass

St. Francis Church on Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong, will be the venue for a Healing Mass by Fr. Theo Rustia at 7 p.m., Feb. 12. The public is invited.

UST Arts and Letters marks milestone

The Faculty of Arts and Letters (Artlets) of the University of Sto. Tomas marked the ruby anniversary (40 years) of the merger between the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters (Philets) and the College of Liberal Arts yesterday with a Holy Mass at the UST Chapel. Since Philets was established in 1896, the Faculty of Arts and Letters is 108 years old, the oldest liberal arts college in Asia.

Artlets alumni included the best journalists, writers and scholars in the country are Artlets—Eggie Apostol, Rolando Tinio, Bien Lumbera, Ben Afuang, Neal Cruz, Zeneida Amador, Diego Cagahastian, Rina David, Celso Carunungan, Ernie Macatuno, Bayani de Leon, Jake Macasaet, Kit Tatad, Joey Lina, Jullie Daza, etc.

The ruby anniversary is going to be celebrated throughout the year. Two outstanding members had already passed on: press freedom fighter Jose Burgos Jr. and Susan Santamaria Lagdameo. Both were members of the Philets Foundation, which helps the sick and dying Philets alumni and assists UST in scholarship and academic programs.

Susan, in her life, showed that marriage and motherhood could not stop a natural born leader. She helped build the Church of Our Lady of la Consolacion, an impressive church in Tierra Pura and Mira Nila subdivision. Susan also taught seminarians, working as process adviser, reading the theses and sitting in the oral exams of the Recoletos seminarians beside the La Consolacion Church.

Now Jose G. Burgos and Susan Santamaria Lagdameo will celebrate the Artlets Ruby anniversary where it really matters, together with other classmates who have also passed on like the famous model Luningning Salazar, Evelyn Duenas and Rolando Sikat.

I knew Luningning very well. We kept in touch when she stopped modeling in fashion shows. But when she died, I couldn't go to the hospital because I got the message late. If her sister Ligaya could write me c/o PDI, I will offer Masses on her death anniversary.

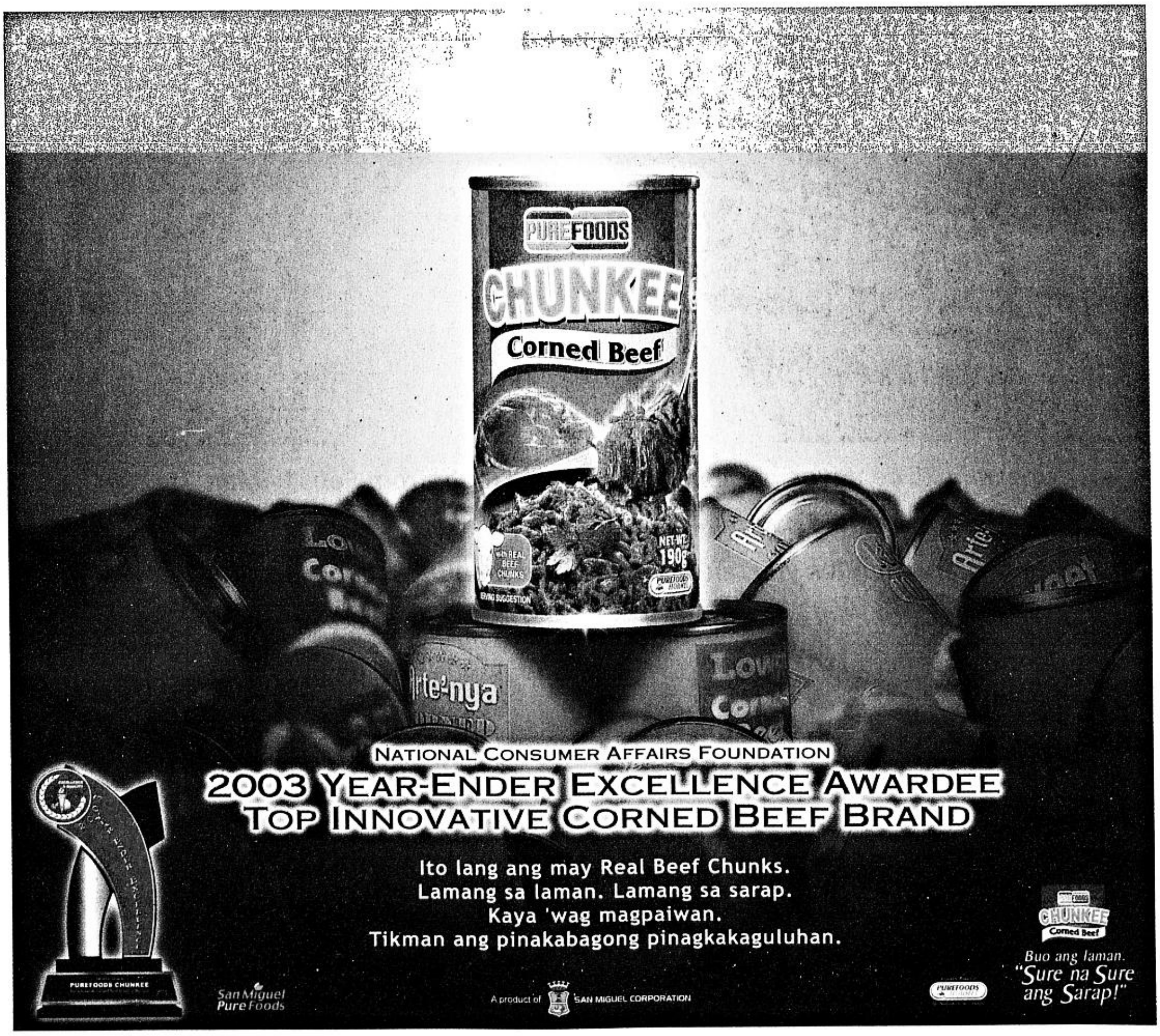
Lipa pilgrimage

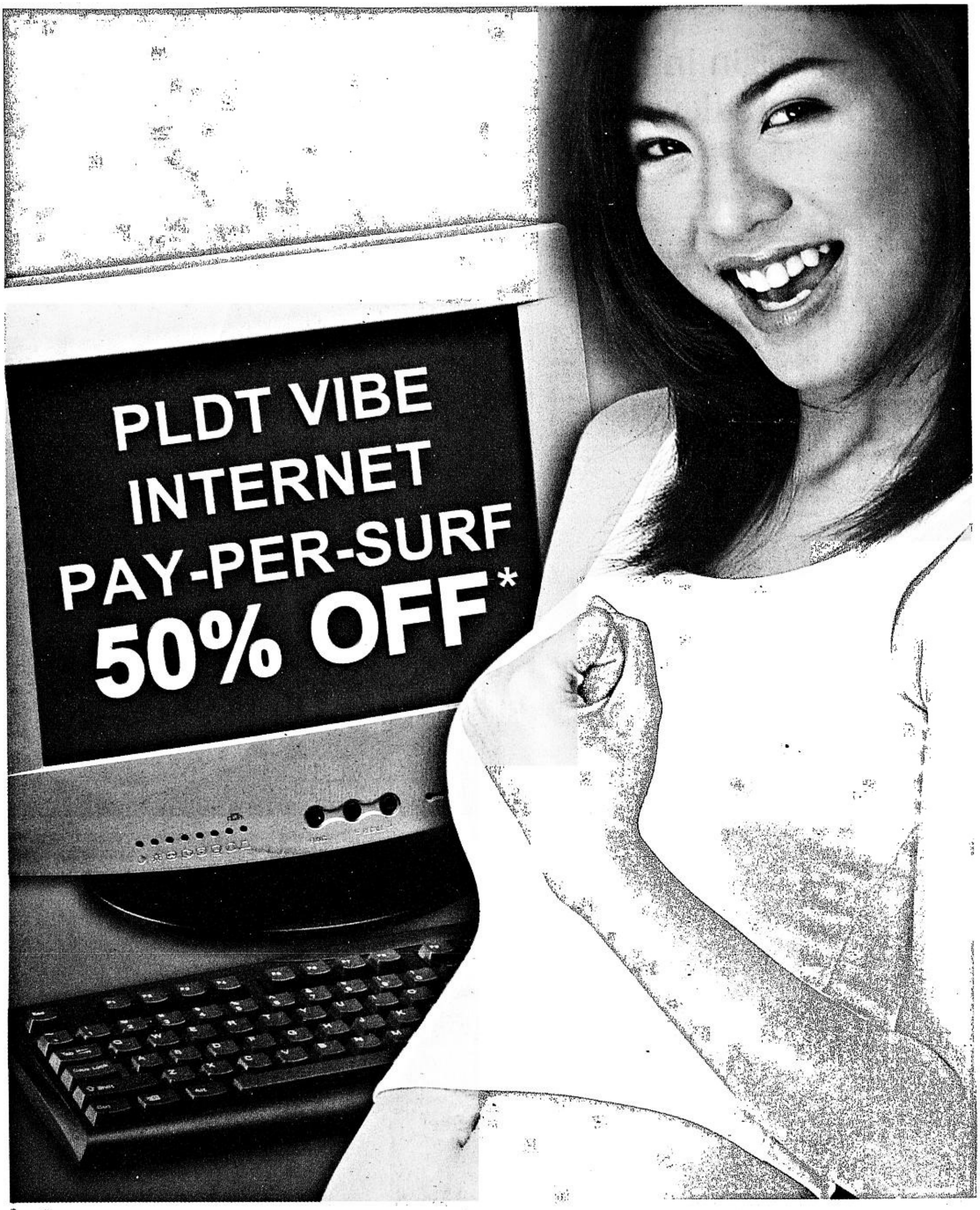
Nieves Puyod and other friends from the Diocese of Digos are in town to visit the Our Lady Mediatrix of All Grace in Lipa City.

Fr. Romy Mendoza of Lipa is encouraging pilgrimages to the city every first Saturday of the month.

Healing of Family Tree

Pro-Life Philippines and the Blessed Margaret Castello Movement are sponsoring a Holy Mass and Healing of the Family Tree at 6 p.m., Feb. 12 at the Sto. Domingo Church with Fr. Arnold Beehme, OCD, as celebrant. Rosary and novena to the Blessed Margaret takes place at 5:30 p.m. Families, the sick and the elderly are invited.





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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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ITALIAN Ambassador Umberto and Clara Colesanti go backstage to congratulate soprano Rachelle Gerodias and pianist Francesco Fumarola.

Italy's EU presidency ends on a musical note

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

IT was truly a lovely way to mark a milestone. Italian Ambassador **Umberto Colesanti** presented a Concerto di Natale last December to mark the end of Italy's presidency of the European Union.

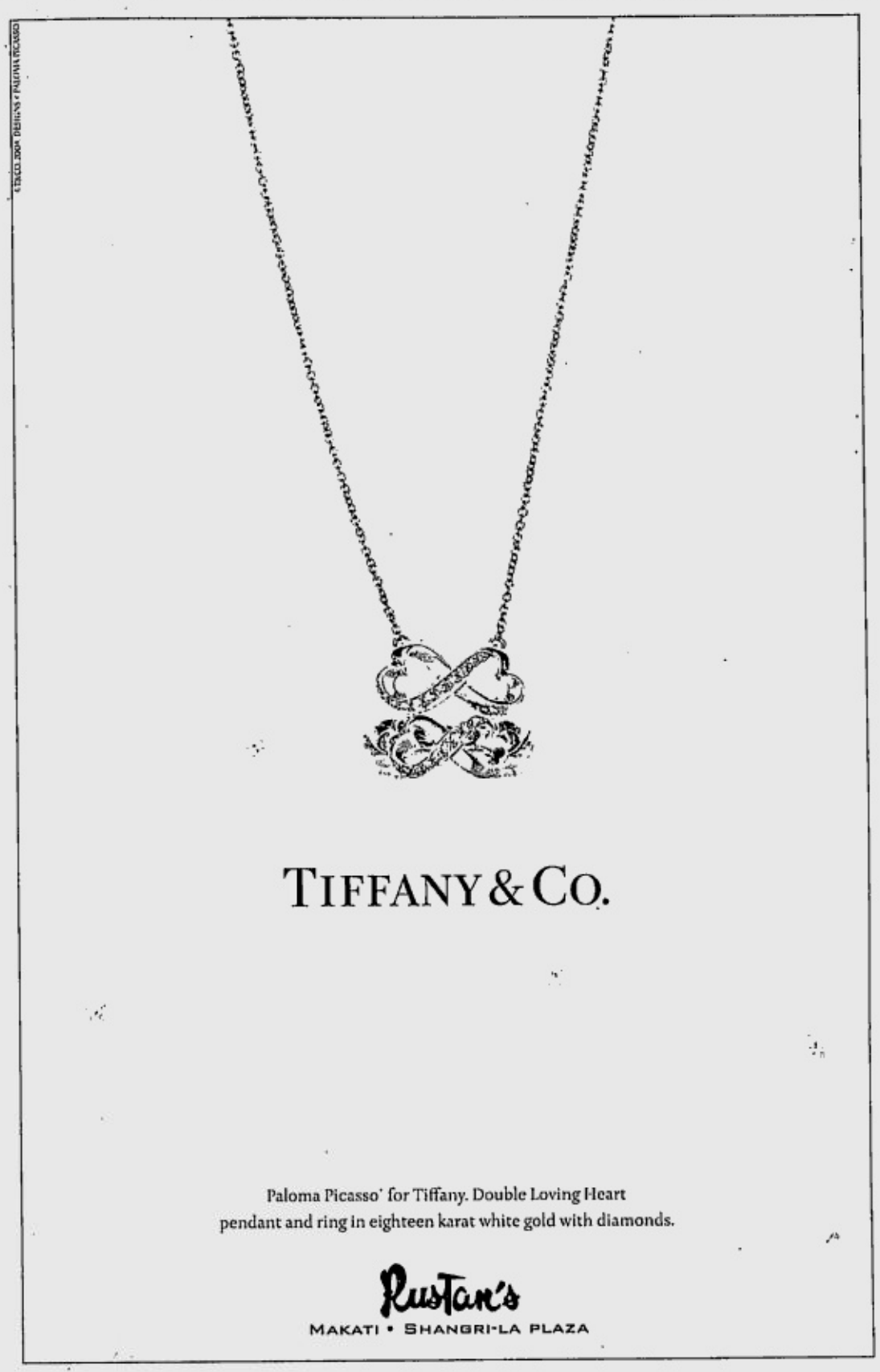
With the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Maestro **Ruggero Barbieri** and Filipina soprano **Rachelle Gerodias**, whose voice thrilled a rapt audience composed of the diplomatic corps and Manila's music lovers, it was a night to remember.

More so because the concert also featured Italian prodigy, 19-year-old **Francesco Fumarola**, who has doctorates in music and composition and speaks at least five languages. His remarks in Tagalog about being happy to play before a Filipino audience endeared him to his listeners.

Guests included Portuguese Ambassador and Sra. **Joao Da Silva**; French Ambassador **Renée Veyret**; Finnish Ambassador and Mme. **Raimo Anttola**; Ambassador **Bienvenido Tantoco**; **Mary Prieto** and **Marylou Lovina**, **Vicky Zubiri**; **Tessie Luz**; **Nori Ongsiaco**; **Lulu Castañeda**, who thought Francesco's profile resembled those of Italian statues in museums; **Nedy Tantoco**, whose Store Specialists co-sponsored the event with Rustan's, Globe Platinum, Ralph's Wines and Spirits; and lots of other glam characters.

The Fumarolas are close friends of the Colesantis and Francesco's parents, **Giuseppe** and **Angela Fumarola**, as well as his sister **Isabella**, were in town to spend the holidays with the ambassador's family.

ITALY'S/ H4

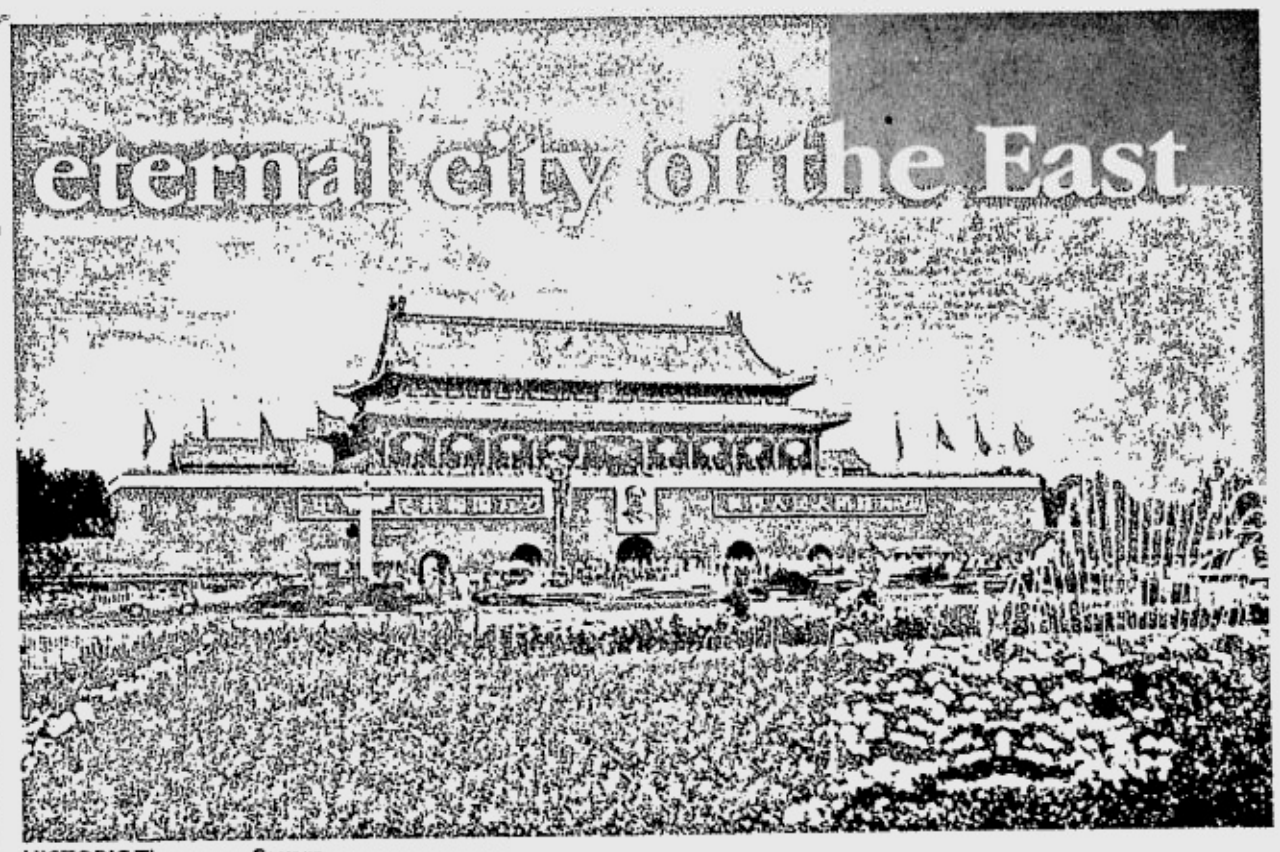


TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano

Beijing, eternal city of the East

By Rowena C. Burgos



HISTORIC Tiananmen Square

OUR tour guide, Anna Shen of China Peace International Tourism Co. Ltd., jokes that there are three "Ds" associated with visiting Beijing: dust, diplomats and duck (Peking).

But Beijing, of course, is much more than that. Simply observing all the activity on its buzzing streets is an unforgettable experience.

Swarms of Beijing residents weave their way through numerous cars and bicycles parked on the curb, hurrying to their destinations. The roads are just as congested; it seems as if the city's eight million bicycles are in use all at once, and the air resounds with a cacophony of bells ringing in place of car horns. (Only 5 percent of the residents own private automobiles, Shen says.)

Cyclists skillfully balance their children or huge bushels of wheat on their handlebars while transporting boxes of vegetables and plants in adjoined wooden wagons.

Tourists need at least four days to do justice to Beijing, which is China's historical and cultural capital as well as its seat of government.

The city itself is an intriguing blend of ancient and modern architecture and philosophy. "The government is trying to balance the city's rapid industrialization with the preservation of the environment and the charm of its old city," Shen says.

To prepare for its hosting of the 2008 Olympic Games, for example, the government has ordered all factories to be relocated out of the city to decrease air and water pollution.

The expansive Tiananmen Square, which can hold up to one million spectators, is where many historic events have occurred, including Chairman Mao Zedong's declaration of the founding of the People's Republic of China on Oct. 1, 1949, and the student anti-communism protests in 1989 that resulted in a massacre.

In the square are the Monument to the Peoples' Heroes; the Chairman Mao Memorial Hall, a mausoleum housing his embalmed remains; the Great Hall of the People, where meetings of the People's Congress and National Assembly are held; and revolutionary history museums.

The 200-acre Forbidden City in the heart of Beijing served as the home of 24 emperors beginning in 1420. For centuries, it was off-limits to most Chinese.

PANORAMIC view of Summer Palace

Its palace consists of ornamented pagodas and vast courtyards, which were designed to hold pageants for half a million people. Nowadays, visitors may explore the clock museum and the chambers for the concubines and eunuch servants.

The Summer Palace, which served as the private sanctuary of the Empress Dowager in the 12th century, is a tranquil lakeside setting with gardens, bridges, temples, pavilions, halls and towers. The palace represents the opulent lifestyle of the Qing Dynasty rulers.

The Great Wall, on the other hand, was built to protect the Chinese against invasions from the north. More than 2,000 years old, this engineering marvel takes up all of 4,500 miles. It took 200 years to complete, and is actually a grouping of walls built and rebuilt by the different dynasties.

The sections closest to Beijing are Badaling and Mutianyu. Millions of tourists flock to the wall each year, so visiting it may not be the serene, spiritual experience some people may expect.

Bargaining is a must in Beijing, says Shen. Shopaholics are advised to pack an extra bag to carry home all the items they are expected to end up buying.

The two main shopping areas are Wangfujing Street and the Silk Street Bargain Market.

Shopping, sightseeing, and just taking in the atmosphere—a visit to Beijing indeed affords the visitor a fascinating trip back in time to a world of emperors, dynasties and ancient traditions. All these in a newly modernized city.

The familiarization tour of Beijing was sponsored by Cathay Pacific, The Marco Polo Beijing and Panda Travel Service Inc. Cathay Pacific now flies from Hong Kong to Beijing, serving three return flights a week. The flight schedule from Hong Kong to Beijing is Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday; Beijing to Hong Kong, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

THE GREAT Wall, engineering marvel

TRAVELBRIEFS

More Valentine treats

PICTURE yourself and your beloved sipping wine on a balcony overlooking fine white sands and swaying green palms.

You can make that a reality at Le Soleil de Boracay, which recently earned the Triple A seal from the Department of Tourism.

With 46 Mediterranean-inspired rooms done in hushed tones, the hotel owned and operated by PJ Lhuillier Inc. offers visitors an inviting refuge after a busy day of island-hopping.

The recently opened new wing has 20 superior deluxe rooms and four family rooms. Each room has a balcony.

For guests who crave the comforts of home but do not want to miss out on the same first-class hotel service, there's Le Soleil Boracay Apartments—a 15-minute walk away from the beach and the first of its kind on the island.

For inquiries, call the Manila sales office at 899-6779 or 895-1777 extensions 1712, 1714 or 1715, or log on to www.lesoleil.com.ph.

***

HOLIDAY Inn Galleria Manila romances the season of love with cozy room packages and dining and entertainment indulgences.

The "Suite Passion" package covers an overnight stay for two in a one-bedroom suite complete with the mist of scented candles, fragrance oil blend and rose petals; a room-service dinner for two with a complimentary bottle of wine; and a buffet breakfast the morning after. This is available to local and foreign residents on Feb. 13-14.

At the Raphael Café-Restaurant, you can enjoy a Valentine buffet lunch or dinner with your date. Dinner is on Feb. 13, and lunch and dinner on Feb. 14. (Call 633-7111 local 7416 or 7440 for reservations.)

If you want a more intimate ambience, a candle-lit dinner at the Summit Penthouse is for you, available on Feb. 14, 6-11 p.m.

For a soothing Valentine night, there's "Monet Mesmerizing" at the Monet Bar-Lounge, where you can thrill to soulful melodies rendered by the evening's chanteuse. Complimentary long-stemmed roses await the ladies. (Advance reservation is required. Call 633-7111 local 7418.)

Grand Ilocos Tour

INSCRIBE Tours has scheduled a tour of the Ilocos highlighted by a sojourn in Vigan, the "Jewel of the North" and one of the first Philippine sites to be included in the Unesco's World Heritage List, on March 18-21.

In the country's oldest surviving colonial city, participants will stroll through narrow cobblestone streets lined by centuries-old edifices or, if they prefer, take in the sights in a horse-drawn *calesa*.

They will also visit the ancestral homes of national heroes, now museums in their memory, as well as ancient churches and landmarks; learn how the famous Vigan pottery is made and discover the abstract art of the *abel* weave; and savor that all-time-favorite Ilocano dish, *pinakbet*, prepared the authentic way.

There will be ample opportunities to shop for antiques, crafts and foodstuff, including the spicy Vigan *longganisa*.

From Vigan, the tour proceeds to neighboring Ilocos Norte—first to the provincial capital Laoag, then Paoay, whose massive Baroque-Gothic church is also a Unesco heritage site, to Batac, and, finally, Pagudpud with its white-sand beach.

The last leg of the tour traverses the picturesque Patapat Bridge near the northernmost tip of the Philippines.

For inquiries, call Marie at 840-5912 or 575-8370, or text 0919-8184697.

Summer flights

PLANNING to visit Disneyland, the Rockefeller Center or Fisherman's Wharf in the United States? Consider giving your families a touch of Korean culture on the way there.

Summer vacationers can make a Seoul stopover via Asiana Airlines (OZ) before heading to Hollywood or the Big Apple, with the added convenience of flying out through Clark Air Field in Pampanga.

For travelers flying out from Clark to the United States this summer, Asiana offers half-day city tours of Seoul with an English-speaking guide, and lunch for a minimal fee. Shopping opportunities are included.

Passengers with a US visa and a confirmed booking to the United States are allowed to stop and enjoy South Korea for up to 15 days without a Korean visa.

For details on schedules, specialty tours and group rates, call your travel agent or Asiana Airlines at 892-5688 in Manila or 599-6658 in Clark.

Open Skies

EMIRATES airline has re-launched its in-flight magazine under a new name, Open Skies, to reflect the welcome attitude and openness adopted by its home port—Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

The airline's many destinations—some 70 all over the world, as of last count—will be featured in each succeeding issue of the magazine. Other features will include technology trends, entertainment events, and—every Dubai traveler's favorite—shopping.

Dubai operates under a unilaterally declared "open skies" regime that allows all designated carriers of recognized countries to mount flights in whatever frequency they deem feasible, even without reciprocal rights from these foreign airlines' countries.

This has resulted in lively air traffic of over 100 airlines worldwide, allowing Dubai to serve as a gateway between Europe, North Africa, Asia and, soon, the Americas.

Get lucky on
Friday the 13th!

close up

Love palooza

Millions will score at this Valentine's Party
February 13, 2004, 8PM onwards
Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard

Kiss for the Record to break the Guinness World Record for Most Number of Kissing Couples

Love booths, games, food, fun and FREE concerts with your favorite celebrities

MAIN STAGE (near the fountain fronting Malate Church)
- **Freestyle, Jay-R, Arnee, Sarah Geronimo, La Salle's Kundirana, Malik, Retrospect, Silk, Manila Philharmonic Orchestra**

ACOUSTIC STAGE (fronting Grand Boulevard Hotel)
- **Paolo Santos, Wency Cornejo, Noel Cabangon, Cookie Chua, U-Turn, Hour Glass Trio**

DJ & DANCE STAGE (fronting Diamond Hotel)
- **Boyet Almazan with Ateneo Dance Club, NBK DJ's, Ledge Dancers, Manolet Dario with Fritz Barth**

Register now to avail of the following benefits:
a. Access to VIP areas in front of the three stages
b. Free commemorative Lovapalooza record-breaker t-shirts
c. Free Close-Up gift packs

Kissing couples must be 18 years old and above. You can register at the following venues:
a. Robinson's Place Ermita (Feb 2-8)
b. Any Fuji YKL dealer in Metro Manila Malls
c. Junior Marketing Association Offices
d. Log on to www.closeupplanet.com

Mechanics for the booths:
Every qualified purchase of Close-Up at the event entitles one to the following free coupons for use at the fun booths and to purchase cool Lovapalooza memorabilia!

150mL	4 coupons
100mL	3 coupons
50mL	2 coupons
25mL	1 coupon

In cooperation with Mayor Lito Atienza & the City Council of

LUNGSOD NG MAYNILA PILIPINAS

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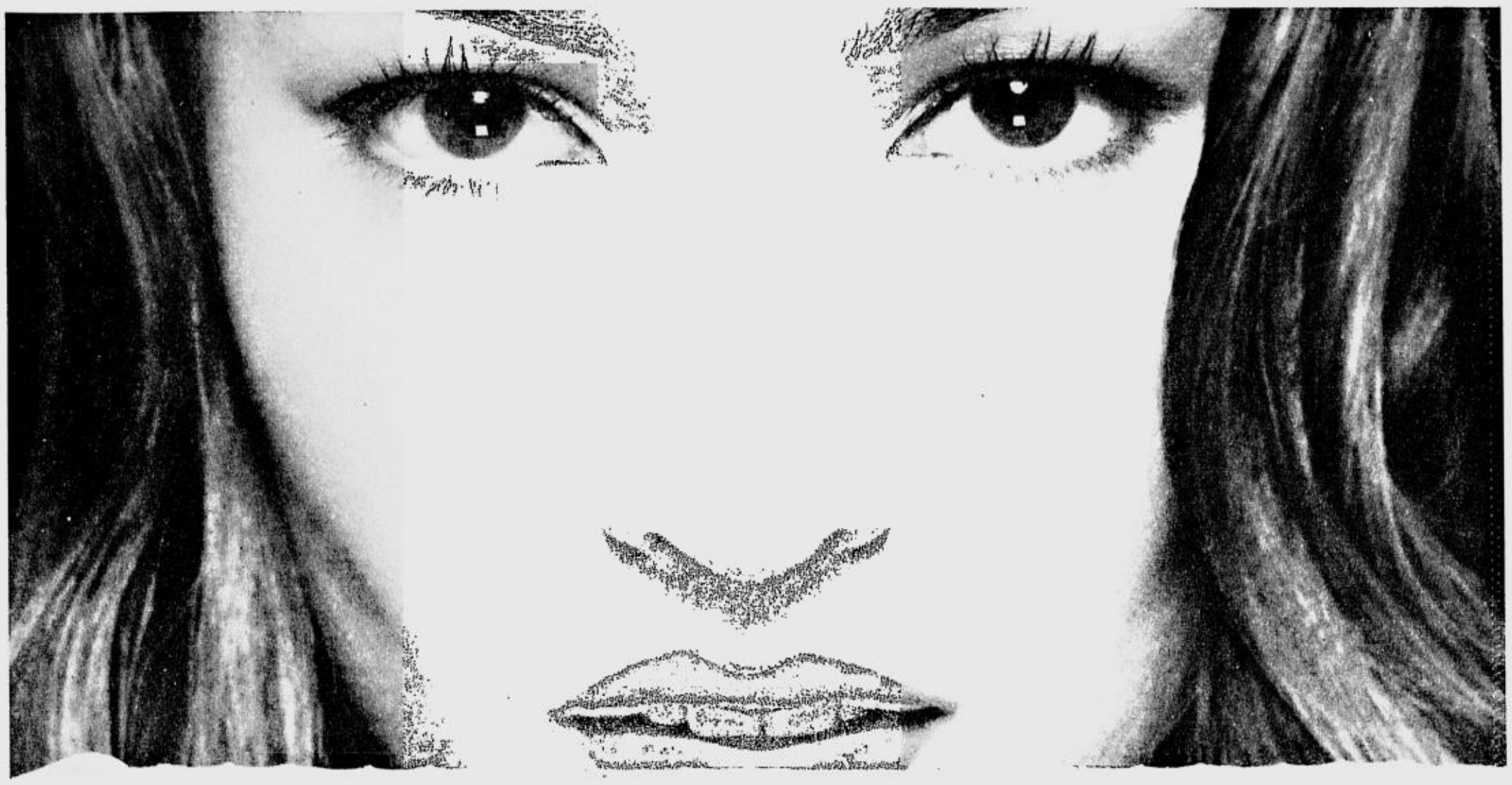

Get lucky on Friday the 13th!

close up

lova palooza

Millions will score at this Valentine's Party
February 13, 2004, 8PM onwards
Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard

Kiss for the Record to break the Guinness World Record for Most Number of Kissing Couples
Lovapaths games, contests and FREE concerts with your favorite celebrities!

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FUMAROLA, a 19-year-old child prodigy from Italy, plays "Ode to Joy" as Gerodias sings with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Maestro Barbieri.

Italy's EU presidency ends . . .

From page H1

Elysee Treaty anniversary

For the second year in a row, French Ambassador **Renée Veyret** and German Ambassador **Herbert Jess** marked the the anniversary (this year is the 40th) of the Elysee Treaty with a concert at the Phil-Am Life Auditorium. Featured was concert pianist **Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz**, who interpreted French and German compositions.

If music soothes the savage beast, surely it speaks as well of reconciliation and fosters understanding among nations. There's a lesson here somewhere for our warring factions.

Award-winning film

To mark International Human Rights Week, the British Embassy and the University of the Philippines' Film Institute presented the documentary film "Riles" (Life on the Tracks) by Chevening scholar **Ditsi Carolino** at the UP Film Center in Diliman.

"Riles" received the Best Documentary Film award at the Cinemanila International Film Festival last August and the Top 10 Audience Award at the International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam in November 2002.

It was screened during the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival in New York, the HotDocs Canadian International Documentary Film Festival in Toronto, the Hong Kong International Film Festival, the Sheffield International and the Documentary Film Festival in the United Kingdom.

The project is among those that received British support extended to talented Filipino artists and filmmakers, aimed at giving them the opportunity to improve their craft and obtain a global education through the Chevening Scholarship program.

Meanwhile, if you wish to support the socioeconomic projects for out-of-school youths of the Alay-Lakad Foundation, you can buy commemorative motor vehicle plates (ALFI), which were released in time for its 31st founding anniversary. Call 5231539.

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

AMBASSADOR Paul Dimond, Ditsi Carolino, UP president Francisco Nemenzo and British Council director Gill Westaway cutting the ribbon during the Human Rights Week celebration

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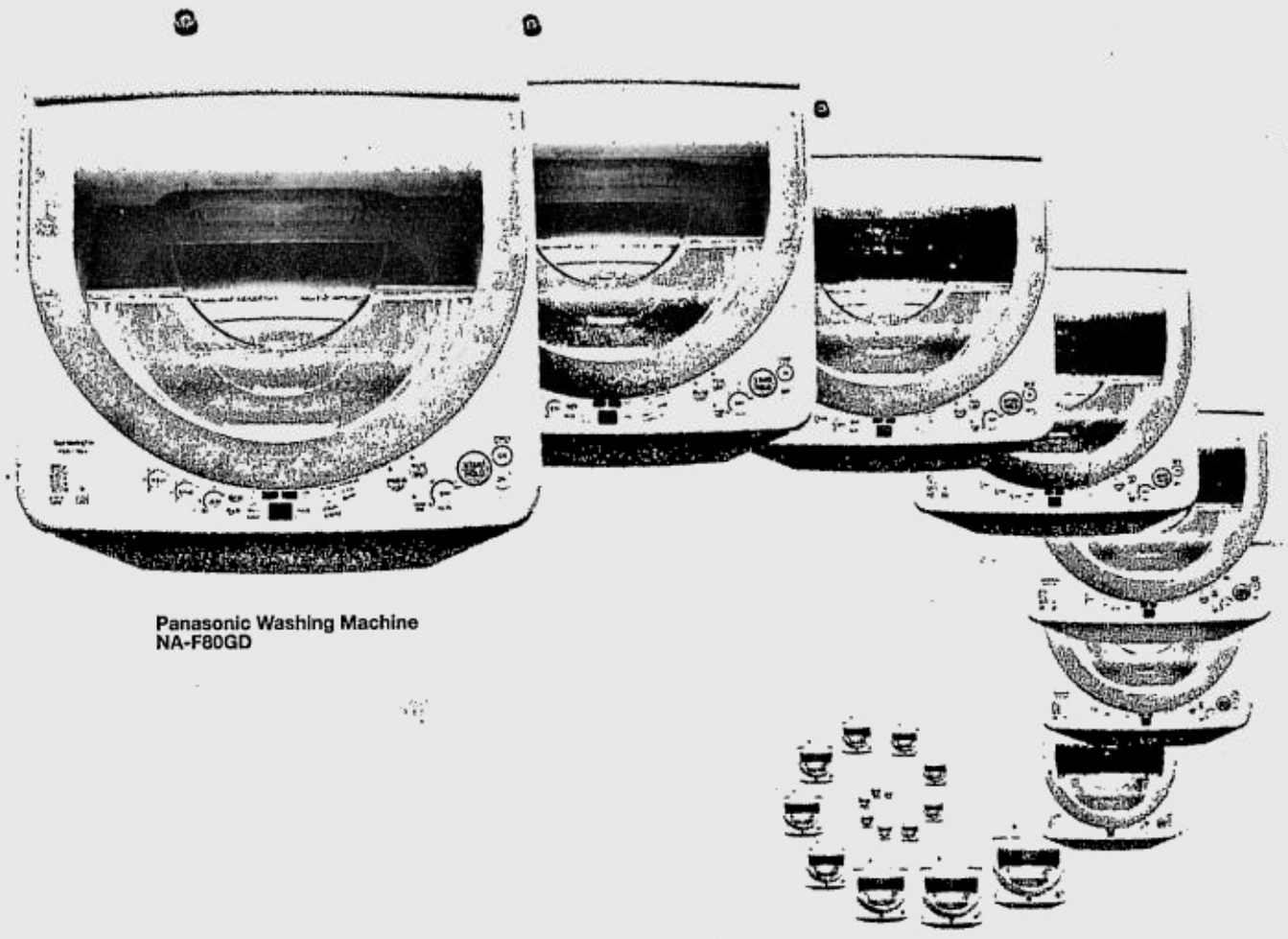

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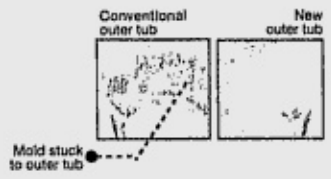

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Panasonic
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PETRANA Colesanti, daughter of Ambassador Colesanti, and Sinda di Feraris

SILVANA Diaz of Galleria Duemila

MME. Micheline Jess of Germany, Isabella Fumarola and engineer Giuseppe Fumarola

AMBASSADOR Bienvenido Tantoco Sr. and Mr. and Ms Baltazar Endriga

AMBASSADOR Jaoa Caetano da Silva and his wife Ulrika, with Today columnist Glenn Gale

VICKY Zubiri

LINA Lorenzo and Betty Chalkley

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JOB Market

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2004
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This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
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P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
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More Jobs on Section J

If only there were enough jobs to plug the brain drain.

Does providing jobs with better opportunities to Filipinos sound impossible? We don't think so. Our commitment to become the largest call center in the Philippines by the end of 2004 will generate the much needed employment within and outside Metro Manila.

JOIN OUR TEAM of high performing Technical Customer Care Representatives (TCCRs) and Customer Care Representatives (CCRs). See us on February 10 onwards from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm at the following offices of Convergys Philippines Services Corporation, Convergys' Philippines subsidiary:

- 7th floor, Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, or
- Level 3, Podium Area, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, 6788 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
- 24th floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower, # 4 ADB Ave. corner Poveda St., Ortigas Center

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- Operations Manager for Technical Program (PDI-OM02)
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- Communication and Culture Trainers (PDI-CCT02)
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- HR Manager (PDI-HR02)
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- Sr. Recruitment Officers (PDI-REC02)
- Manager, Control Assurance (PDI-CA02) - CPA; at least 4 years of external audit experience and 2 years internal control and operations audit experience.

Applicants for non-representative positions can send their resume with a cover letter (indicate recruitment code) to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com within 7 days. Please refrain from sending attachments - the body of the email must be the resume itself.

Convergys is the world's largest call center and one of America's Most Admired Companies. Convergys manages revenues in excess of US $ 2.29 billion and close to 50,000 people in 52 call centers worldwide. These centers, as well as those in the country, cater to many Fortune 500 companies around the globe. Our dedication to provide excellent customer service has earned us several awards:

- # 1 Inbound Agency for 4 consecutive years: 1998, 1999, 2000 & 2001–ranked by Customer Inter@ction Magazine
- CIO – 100 Award -- selected Convergys as one of the Top 100 companies to excel in the 21st century
- Call Center Magazine: "Call Center of the Year" for 2003

We now entertain walk-in candidates Monday-Friday from 9:00 am - 6:00 pm in both offices

At Convergys, we provide our share.

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PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY.

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It's time to diversify your skills and grow with us!

✈✈ TRAVEL COUNSELORS ✈✈

- Must at least have a minimum of two years travel / airline experience
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- Good communication skills, both oral and written
- Have good experience of delivering high quality Customer Service
- Able to do international reservations and airline ticketing
- Proficient in airfare computations and must be familiar with international geography
- Qualified candidates must be able to start immediately
- Willing to work in variable work shifts

Duties and responsibilities include:

- Planning itineraries, making reservations for air, hotel, car rental and airport limousine transfers
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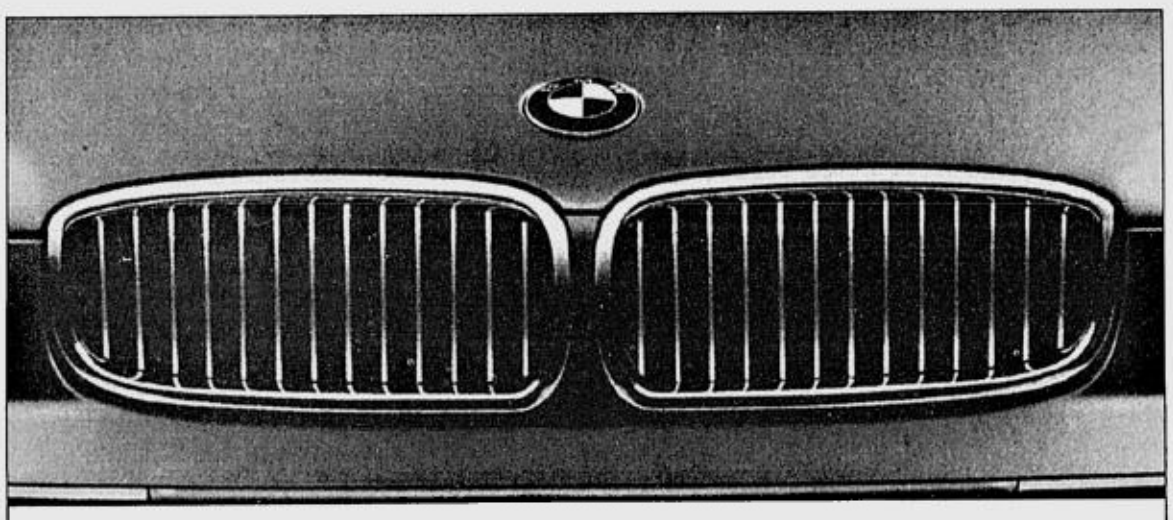
gemini_integrated@hotmail.com



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Accounting Associate

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- Proficient in the following software applications: MS Excel, Word, PowerPoint and computerized accounting systems

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Interested applicants are requested to submit their curriculum vitae, recent 2x2 photo, transcript of records and other pertinent credentials to:

The HR Manager
LausGroup Corporate Center
San Fernando-Olongapo Highway
City of San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. +045-963 2525 Telefax. +045-961 5618
Mobile +921-2108155 Email hrmd@lausgroup.com

Premier Cars BMW (Pampanga)
premiercars.bmw.com.ph
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The Little Gym of Makati	Bonifacio Tech Center, Fort Bonifacio
The Little Gym of Mandaluyong	Level 5, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
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Only the most qualified will be called in for interviews.

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Tel. Nos. 834-6840; 834-6841; 833-7093
Attn: Constantino M. Jayme

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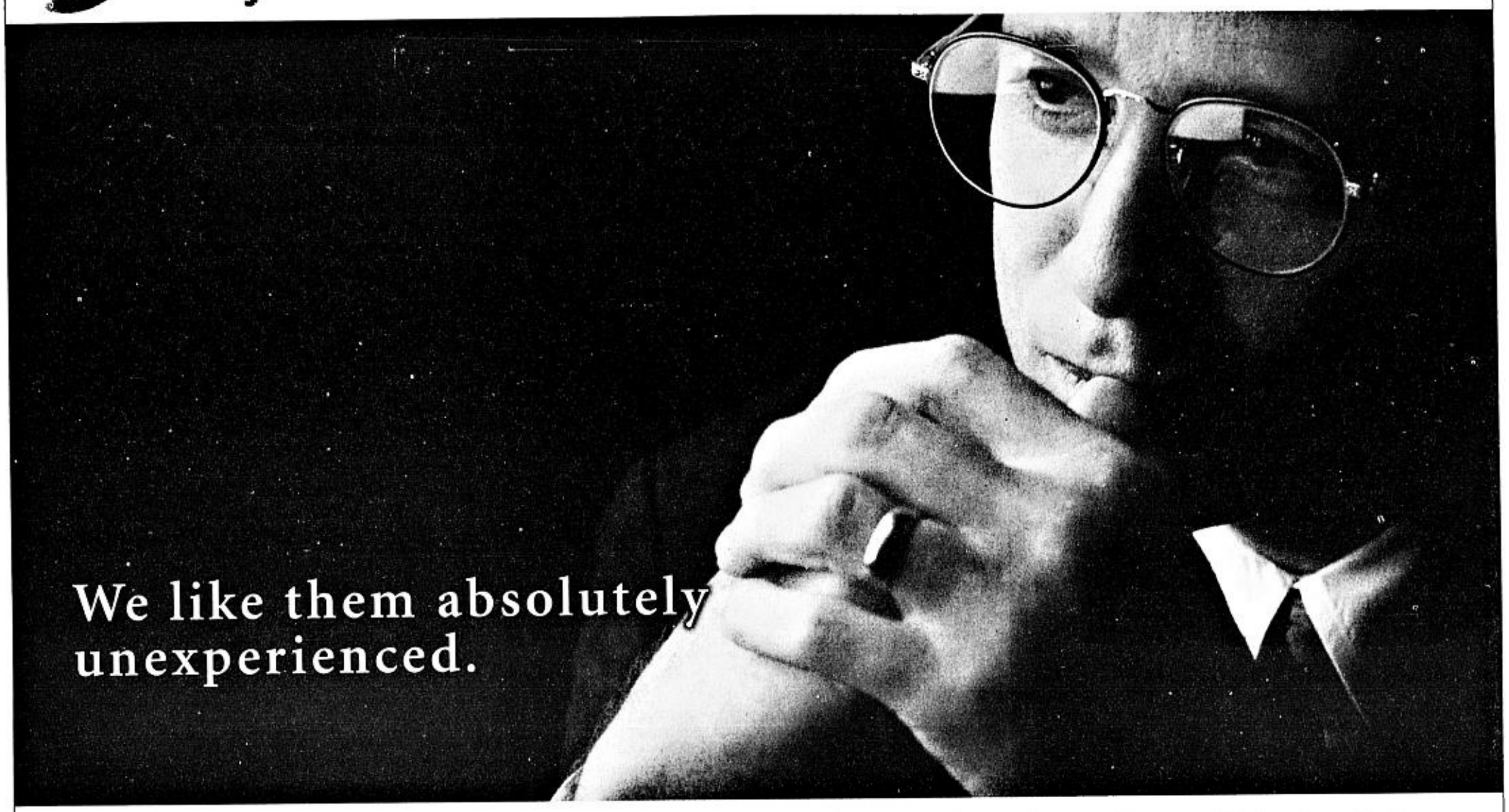
E-mail to: tomelent@yahoo.com

Sony Life



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Qualifications:
- Male or Female
- Between 27 to 45 years old
- Graduate of a top university (UP, Ateneo, La Salle, UST, etc.)
- Preferably married and affiliated with at least 3 social organizations
- Preferably an executive, manager, or business owner and earns at least P40,000 per month
- Strong sales background is an advantage
- Absolutely no life insurance/pre-need sales experience

*in terms of capitalization

Qualified applicants will undergo Sony Life Career Information Program (CIP).

To apply, simply send, fax or email your resume to:

35th floor PBCom Tower,
6795 Ayala Ave., V.A. Rufino St.,
1226 Makati City, Philippines
Fax: (632) 819-1803

For more information, visit: www.sonylife.com.ph
or email ramos.sp@sonylife.com.ph

Be Part of the Most Exciting Growth Opportunity in Asia. The Sands invites high caliber personnel to apply for the following positions:

The Sands, a mega gaming/entertainment complex, and the first of many properties in Asia to be opened, is looking for candidates for the following positions:

Slot Shift Manager

The successful applicant will have a minimum of three years experience in Slot Management in a medium to large Casino environment with an excellent understanding of Slot Management systems, Operating Procedures and Players' Club operations.

The ability to communicate in oral and written English is essential, with spoken Mandarin and/or Cantonese desirable.

Slot Supervisor

The successful applicant will have a minimum of two years experience as a Slot Supervisor in a medium to large Casino environment with an excellent understanding of Slot and Players Club operations

The ability to communicate in English is essential, with Mandarin and/or Cantonese desirable.

Gaming Systems Technician

The successful applicant will have a minimum of five years experience as a Slot Technician in a medium to large Casino environment, and will possess an excellent knowledge of the application, troubleshooting, service and repair of Slot Management System components.

The ability to communicate in oral and written English is essential, with spoken Mandarin and/or Cantonese desirable.

The workload for all posts will be substantial and varied while remuneration will be competitive with excellent conditions, benefits and opportunities for advancement. Applicants will be expected to be available for work at the beginning of March.

Please apply in confidence with your detailed resume, recent photo, expected salary and e-mail to
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Be part of a winning team!
We are looking for career-driven Call Center Representatives.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Ability to function in a fast paced, sales driven environment with minimal supervision
- Maintain professional demeanor, high attendance & sales performance according to project objectives
- Excellent command of written and verbal English
- Enjoys challenges and highly results-oriented
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office programs
- Call center / telemarketing / sales experience a must

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Operations Manager
- Shift Manager
- HR Manager
- Employee Relations Specialist
- Executive Assistant
- Spanish Speaking Agents
- Trainer
- Client Relations Officer

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Ayala Ave. corner Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
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Visit us at: www.vxiusa.com

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ESS-Main Campus
BFRV,
Las Piñas City
Tel: 875-4553 to 60
Fax: 874-6477 and 874-9990

ESS-South Campus
Anabu II-D,
Imus Cavite
Tel: (046) 471-6571 and 471-0080
Fax: (046) 471-5445

Interested applicants with the following credentials:
- BSE or BEEd graduate or BS / AB graduate with 18 units of education (to complete or completed)
- Above average communication skills
- Computer literate (MS Office at least)
- Good moral background
- Preferably with a teaching license

May send their resumé and transcript of records personally or by mail to:

HRD Office
Elizabeth Seton School
BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City 1740
Or call 875-4553 to 60 loc 224 for more information

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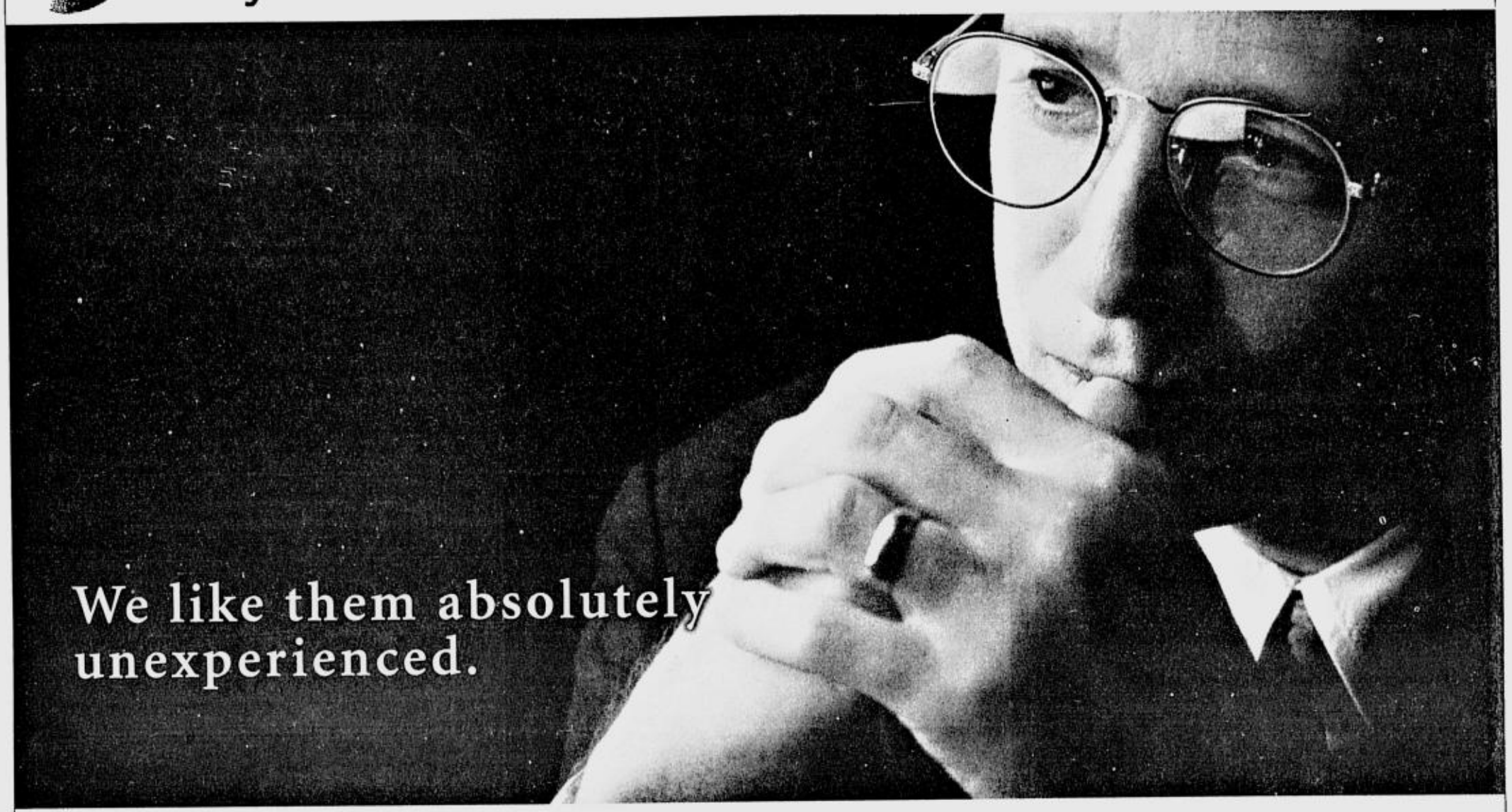
Sony Life



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How can you improve your facilitation skills?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I'm facilitating a task force of people from all parts of our company. The group has strong personalities and deep disagreements. It's a war zone! How can I bring them together?

Fearless leader, Not

Bet you didn't know that over 90 percent of all turkeys are artificially inseminated, did you? I just read that. And you know why? Not for genetic reasons. It's because poultry companies have figured out how to raise turkeys that are so meaty and fast-growing that they just have one little problem: the birds are so big and clumsy they can't seem to get together ...

Kind of like some committees, huh? You bet it's clumsy for people from different work groups to come together to birth new ideas. But the tips below can help you midwife a great performance from your team. For more ideas, check out Michael Doyle and David Straus's book, "How to Make Meetings Work" (Berkeley, 1993).

Do you understand your role as a facilitator? You may be the head bird, but that doesn't mean you can gobble up all the committee's time or scratch out all its answers. Your job is simply to use questions (and occasionally gentle prods) to keep the group on task, keep everyone involved, quell attacks, and move things forward when they bog down.

Do you describe your role to members? Doyle suggests you start with a brief statement like this, "My role isn't to contribute ideas or evaluate yours. I'm here to focus everyone's efforts on the task. Facilitation is tough, so I'll accept whatever help you can offer. With your help, I'm sure we'll accomplish a lot."

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Has your group agreed on how to solve the problem? Believe me: it's easier to decide how to handle tough issues before you're knee-deep in content. So resist the temptation to dive right into the issues. Take time to decide HOW you're going to solve the problem before you start pecking at solutions.

Do you keep everyone involved? One thing that can derail a committee faster than you can say "Butterball" is resentment from people who feel ignored. Avoid that by checking with every member frequently. Touching base this way also ensures that even quiet members get their say, and that all ideas get heard.

Can you learn from your mistakes without obsessing about them? Facilitation is a contact sport! You're going to make mistakes! Examine your mistakes briefly, decide to improve in the future, then let them go. If you obsess on them during your meetings you'll lose track of the work of the moment.

Do you limit your own talking? Great facilitators are often overlooked because they're not the center of attention. They're just prodding from the edges with pointed questions that keep members focused on the issues. When it comes to talking, less from a facilitator is almost always more.

Follow the tips above and you can turn a roomful of turkeys into a high performing team.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll:

Which movie title best describes the facilitation skills displayed at the last meeting you attended?

—"The Miracle Worker," 10.8%

—"The Man Who Knew Too Much," 43.5%

—"The Absent Minded Professor," 45.6%

(Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

How to survive graduate school

POSTCARDS *from the* CORPORATE EDGE

By Ariel

GOING to graduate school is much like preparing for battle. You go through a series of training, mental, physical and emotional. You learn strategies such as which line of attack to use. You also develop the necessary skills to maximize your strength. It is a tough training program. The rate of casualty (or the number of dropouts) is high and only those who are determined carry on until the end. Of course, there are also "free riders," who survive their way through grad school by using their charms and sweet talking their classmates into doing their work. But that is another story.

Spending almost three years in grad business school taught me that every course in the curriculum is designed to prepare you not only for business but also for life. Every subject teaches you how to be a better person—a better employee, a better boss, a better mom. Every facet of your personality is honed and it's highly unlikely for anyone to graduate without becoming a much better, if not more compassionate, individual.

Accounting

For example, the supposedly mundane subject of Accounting is an eye-opener. In my school, we are required to take two accounting courses—financial and managerial accounting. But apart from teaching you how to prepare financial statements, accounting teaches you how to be ethical and accountable. Recently, we saw how several corporations were charged for improper accounting procedures. Enron and Italy's Parmalat made headlines for their allegedly unethical accounting practice. This brings me to wonder whether we know how to be accountable in our daily lives. Perennial clock-watchers should realize that they can make better use of their time than engaging in silly chitchat while waiting for 5 p.m.. Reimbursements of expenses that are not office-related are things we should avoid. Those who do this think that the company has millions of money in the bank anyway and they can afford to lose a few pesos. But at the end of the day (and probably at the end of our lives, too), can we really tell ourselves that our work was something we could be proud of?

Statistics

Statistics, which I though was a boring course I can afford not to take in my lifetime, turned out to be valuable. Now, I would give my left arm for it. To illustrate its uses in everyday life, this subject can help you determine your probability of winning the lottery. The Decision Tree (one of its tools) helps you decide whether bidding for a certain project would be beneficial or not. It helps you make important decisions regarding what products to come out with. I also have a sneaking suspicion that this particular tool can help you make a wise choice on who to marry!

But on a deeper level, Statistics would make you wonder whether you'll just be another "one of those people" who never made a difference. Will you just be another employee whose contributions will go unnoticed? Will you add to the unemployed statistics or the number of people who never used their talents? The questions whether you can make a difference or not are endless.

Human resources

Human Resources, on the other hand, is not for HR practitioners alone. This course holds many gems that anyone can apply in their relationships with family members, coworkers and friends. For example, hy human resources professor once said that we should never let the day pass without praising good work. Whether the act was as little as returning a borrowed pen or as great as feeding the hungry, praising good deeds is the way to go. It empowers people, it makes them feel good, and it encourages them to do more goodness. Imagine a workplace where your HR manager sincerely praises your efforts. The results would be tremendous.

Marketing

Among the many courses I took in MBA, my marketing courses are my favorites. More than any subject in my curriculum, I believe that the principles of marketing can be applied to all facets of your life. The concept of product life cycle (PLC to us business students) teaches you when to begin and when to end. Services marketing teaches you to be more innovative, to think of new ways to be of service to others. Market research teaches you to be more analytical and to listen to the needs of other people. Global marketing encourages you to spread your wings, expand your horizons and fly.

Of course, not everyone would want to enter grad school. I don't blame them, given time and financial constraints. Besides, graduate schools are not the only place where you can learn about life. Different people have different paths to take and to each his own. As for me, this is the road I choose. And whether or not you take the same road I'm taking now, I just hope we arrive at the places we set out for nonetheless. *(Send your contributions to Postcards to* peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.*)*

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Speakers are: Mr. Ricardo C. de Vera, President, Certified International Trainor, Philippine Trade Training Center; Ms. Divina Capua, Chief Consumer Assistant & Protection Center, Department of Trade & Industry - NCR; Atty. Byron San Pedro, LLM, San Pedro Law Firm; Mr. Benjie C. Encarnacion, AVP, Market Intelligence, Nestle Philippines, Inc.; and Ms. Marianne Quebral, Executive Director, Venture for Fund Raising.

Schedule : **February 17, 18 & 20, 2004**
(Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday)
1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
ACCEED - AIM Conference Center, Makati City

Course Fee : PMA Member P 5,500.00
Non-PMA Member P 6,000.00

For inquiries, please call the PMA Secretariat c/o Ms. Lydia Marinas at tells: 634-5722; 634-4890 or Fax: 636-1451

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Dean Violeta Jerusalem
E-mail : vjerusalem@feu.edu.ph
Tel. Number : 735-00-43

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tyler

(Owned and operated by Republic Retailers)
Urgently needs

MERCHANDISE MANAGER
- Graduate of any 4-year Business related course, preferably with an MBA or Fashion Merchandising Degree
- With at least two (2) years work experience in the retail business in the same capacity
- Must be analytical, results-oriented, artistic, creative and with good fashion sense

OPERATIONS MANAGER
- Graduate of any 4-year Business related course, preferably with an MBA or Fashion Merchandising Degree
- With at least two (2) years work experience in the retail business in the same capacity
- Must be analytical, results-oriented, artistic, creative and with good fashion sense

FINANCE OFFICER
- Must be very flexible and willing to do other jobs e.g. HR and administrative work
- CPA
- Masters degree an advantage

ACCOUNTANT
- Accounting graduate, preferably a CPA
- With extensive experience in Accounting work
- Hardworking, aggressive and personable

SALES CONSULTANTS/SUPERVISOR
- Must have initiative, ability, and sustained interest in selling fashion items
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays

FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANAGER/HOTEL MANAGER
- HRM graduate
- At least 3 years work experience in managing a restaurant
- Knowledgeable in menu planning and food costing

STAFF ASSISTANT
- Graduate of any college course
- High degree of initiative and resourcefulness
- Strong self organization skills

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resume, transcript of records and a recent 2 x 2 photo to:

2/F, Glorietta 4
Ayala Center, Makati City

1st Level Rockwell
Power Plant Mall
Rockwell Drive corner
Estrella Street, Makati City

2nd Level Rustan's Shangri-la Plaza
EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard
Mandaluyong City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)

Employers' Most Wanted:

Java & Oracle*

*Dice Report, November 2003

Most Wanted Skills (Skills searched for by employers the most at Dice.com)	1. Java 2. Oracle 3. C 4. SAP 5. Unix

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In the November 2003 Report of US-based Dice, Inc., leading provider of online recruiting services, the two most wanted skills by employers are JAVA and ORACLE. Evidently, these are the skills you need to succeed in the IT industry today.

NIIT, the world leader in IT Education and Training, an Oracle Workforce Development Partner presents programs on Java and Oracle Technologies:

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UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MANILA
National Graduate Office for the Health Sciences

announces the offering of the following graduate programs for AY 2004-2005

College of Allied Medical Professions
- Master of Rehabilitation Science
- Master of Rehabilitation Science (Speech Pathology)
- Master of Clinical Audiology[1]

College of Arts and Sciences
- Master of Arts in Health Policy Studies (Health Social Science)
- Master of Management (Business / Public)

College of Dentistry
- Master of Science in Dentistry (Orthodontics)
- Certificate of Proficiency in Orthodontics

College of Medicine
- Doctor of Philosophy in Biochemistry
- MD-PhD (Molecular Medicine)
- Master of Science in Biochemistry
- Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology
- Master of Science in Clinical Medicine (Child Health / Family Medicine / Medical Oncology / Obstetrics– Gynecology / Surgery)
- Master of Science in Pharmacology[2]
- Master of Science in Physiology
- Master of Basic Medical Sciences
- Master of Clinical Audiology[1]
- Master of Clinical Medicine (Medical Oncology)
- Master of Orthopedics
- Diploma in Clinical Epidemiology
- Diploma in Clinical Medicine (Child Health / Family Medicine / Obstetrics-Gynecology)
- Diploma in Physiology
- Diploma in Preventive Ophthalmology
- Certificate in Biochemistry

College of Nursing
- Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing
- Master of Arts in Nursing[3]

College of Pharmacy
- Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacy
- Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- Master of Science in Pharmacy

College of Public Health
- Doctor of Public Health
- Master of Science in Epidemiology
- Master of Science in Public Health (Biostatistics / Environmental Health / Medical Microbiology / Medical Parasitology / Nutrition)
- Master of Arts in Health Policy Studies (Health Sciences)
- Master of Hospital Administration[3]
- Master of Public Health[3]
- Master of Occupational Health
- Diploma in Dental Public Health
- Certificate in Hospital Administration

National Teacher Training Center for the Health Professions
- Master of Health Professions Education
- Diploma in Health Professions Education
- Basic Course in Health Professions Education

1 Joint program of the College of Allied Medical Professions and the College of Medicine
2 Application deferred until AY 2005-06
3 Also offered in distance-mode by the UP Open University

For inquiries, call 526-5870 / 523-1495 / 523-1498 or e-mail upm_ngohs@yahoo.com. Visit www.upm.edu.ph/gradoffice for downloadable forms. Mailing address: **National Graduate Office for the Health Sciences, University of the Philippines Manila, 3/F Joaquin Gonzales Hall, Padre Faura corner Ma. Orosa Street, Ermita, 1000 Manila.**

Application Period until APRIL 22, 2004

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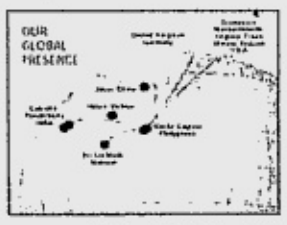
spi technologies



SPI Technologies provides business process outsourcing (BPO) solutions for more than 150 corporations, non-profit organizations, leading institutions and governmental agencies worldwide.

To cater to the extensive requirements of our clients in the global healthcare industry, our Healthcare Documentation Services business unit has an urgent need for qualified and highly motivated applicants for:

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST TRAINEES

(code: MTT)

- Graduates of:
  - Nursing, Physical or Occupational Therapy, Radiologic or Medical Technology, Biology, Public Health or other allied health courses,
  - Non-practicing medical doctors, or
  - Undergraduates of Medicine.
- Ability to transcribe 30 words per minute (wpm).
- Excellent hearing acuity and listening skills.
- Must possess above average comprehension, problem solving and analytical skills.
- Excellent communication skills in English.
- Willing to work in any shift.
- Willing to be assigned in Parañaque City.
- New graduates with good scholastic records are invited to apply.

WALK-IN applicants for this position will be accommodated for exam until May 2004, 8am - 3pm only.

Please proceed to the SPI HR Office 2F Sky Freight Bldg. C, NAIA Avenue corner PASCOR Drive, Parañaque City. Bring your updated resumé w/ recent 2X2 ID picture, Transcript of Records and SSS ID or E1 form.

You may also send your application online through our website's CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES page. Please visit *www.spitech.com.*

Please indicate position code on the envelope/resumé.

ENZED TRADE

We are looking for competent professionals for the following positions:

- **Accounting Assistant**
- **Sales/Office Assistant**

Qualifications:
- Female, Single, 21 to 27 years old
- Accounting graduate
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office
- Can communicate in English
- Minimum of 2 years related work experience

Please mail your resumé with recent photo and transcript of records to Rm. 508 Mervin Terraces Condominium, 980 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St. Malate, Manila or send through fax no. 526-3948.

WEB DESIGNER
- Experience in web/graphic design
- Proficient in Photoshop, Illustrator, Dreamweaver, HTML, Corel

WEB DEVELOPER/PROGRAMMER
- Experience in Web Administration
- Proficient in any: Dreamweaver, HTML, DHTML, Javascript, CSS, PHP, MYSQL, ACCESS, ASP, ASP.Net, PERL

E-mail your resumé at : snookams@yahoo.com
nelly@comclark.com
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Systems Engineer
Reporting to the Country Manager, you will handle IT infrastructure including server, LAN / WAN management, firewall and anti-virus solutions.

Requirements:
- Degree in the field of Computer Engineering, Computer Management or Information Systems.
- 3 - 5 years relevant experience
- Able to implement Linux server solutions (Apache, qMail, mySQL, Tomcat)
- Able to administer server / client anti-virus and firewall solutions
- MCSE certification or Windows server experience advantageous

Web Programmers (Senior/Junior)
Your prime responsibilities will be to develop the company's mission critical applications and solutions.

Basic Requirements:
- Degree in the field of Computer Management or Information Systems
- At least 1 and 3 years relevant experience for junior and senior positions respectively
- Adept in Java web programming (JSP, SQL, MVC architecture)

Senior Programmer Requirements:
- Experience in leading teams in software development.
- Skilled in system and database design.
- Linux based Tomcat and mySQL preferred.

We offer competitive compensation package to the selected candidates. Only qualified applicants will be notified.

These are all urgent requirements!
To expedite processing, please email your resumés to:
erin@aslouken.com
on or before Feb 13, 2004
Visit our website: www.aslouken.com

Enhance success with Feng Shui ...

From page 18

vases so avoid placing it near the door. Do not place the paper cutter near the main entryway. Experts believe that this will cause disharmony among coworkers by influencing them to backstab and fight with each other.

Furniture placement

According to the experts, the positions of your desk and chair greatly affect your mood at work. Placement could also spell the difference between success and failure, according to the ancient experts. Arrange furniture harmoniously to allow *chi* to flow freely. Make sure your desk does not face toilets, cabinets, storage rooms, elevators, stairs or escalators.

Maintain balance in your interior design. When choosing colors, balance light and dark. Maintain a good mix of smooth and rough textures when choosing draperies, upholstery, flooring, wall and ceiling treatments and furniture.

Ever notice how the big bosses are usually situated at the farthest part of the room? The assistants or secretaries are usually at the front end. Having your desk farthest from the entrance suggests command and authority.

Many Feng Shui experts believe that one should always sit parallel to a wall. Have something solid at your back for support. Do not have a window at your back. Use a plant or ornament to cover up anything protruding, like a post for example, from your wall.

Angi Ma Wong suggests in "Feng Shui Do's and Taboos" to position the computer at the north or west side of the office to encourage creativity. For wealth, place the PC on the southeast side. The safe is a symbol of financial stability. Place a metal safe in the west or northeast.

Accessorize

Plants introduce fresh elements into the workplace. It symbolizes life and growth. Potted plants can bring nature in but avoid cactuses or foliage with sharp leaves. The web site www.fengshuitips.co.uk explains that *chi* becomes fierce or sharp once it passes through such plants. Position your little shrub at the fortunate blessings area or the top left hand corner of your worktable. To invite more opportunities and prosperity, put your plant in a red pot.

Create new energy flow, by bringing in a fountain in your office. Water symbolizes connection, sustenance and wealth. It is also believed to have healing benefits. The sound of water is proven to be relaxing for the stressed soul. Opt for fountains that allow water to flow and pool visibly rather than disappear quickly.

Adopt a pet fish and place the aquarium in the east, north or southeast. A black or blue fish attracts business success according to "Feng Shui Do's and Taboos." Animals in business spaces signify success, according to the experts. If you wish to be the leader in your industry, place a dragon at the right hand side of the worktable. Make sure the dragon faces a window, a door or a fountain. The three-legged toad symbolizes wealth. Procure one for the front office entrance. Make sure the toad faces your office.

Web site www.fengshuitips.co.uk also suggests hanging a crystal by your window. Not only does this shiny trinket attract *chi*, it also creates an amazing rainbow once natural light plays with its many facets. If you want the phone to be ringing off the hook with orders, place a crystal ball on the top of your phone. Crystals are also known to have healing effects. A metal wind chime could also ward off sickness.

Have something in your office that has absolutely nothing to do with your work. It can be a piece of art, a picture of a loved one, a precious bibelot or a tennis trophy—these little sources of inspiration are also reminders that there is life away from quotas and progress reports.

Home office

Some people are lucky to have their workspace at home. If you are thinking of setting up an office at home, position the space in front of the house that welcomes most of the energy flow.

Avoid having your desk in your bedroom. The bedroom is a place of rest. Do not destroy the tranquility of your rest area by crowding it with your desk. If you do not have the luxury of an extra space, cover your computer and other machineries with cloth before turning in for the night.

The desk is the number one Feng Shui factor in work success. Get a decent table dedicated for work alone. Do not make your dinner table your desk after breakfast has been cleaned up. Define your workspace from your living area. If you cannot have walls, opt for dividers, plants or rugs to map out your workplace.

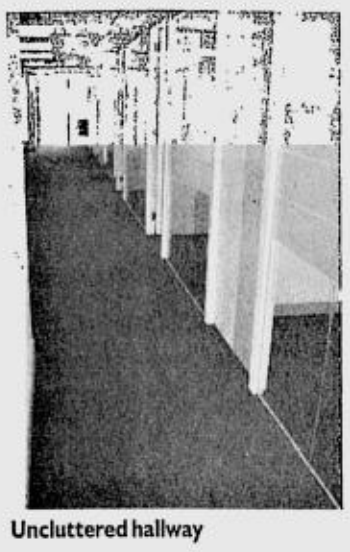
If you don't really believe in the benefits of old Chinese teachings, subtract the ancient wisdom and you will come up with practical tips that still make sense. Simply remove stumbling blocks and clear pathways for opportunities. It's a no-brainer.

Start with your cubicle

Not everything has to be followed to the letter. There are always exceptions, restrictions and constraints especially if you don't own the company you work for. Unless you can convince the office administration to redecorate, you will have to work on your own little orbit.

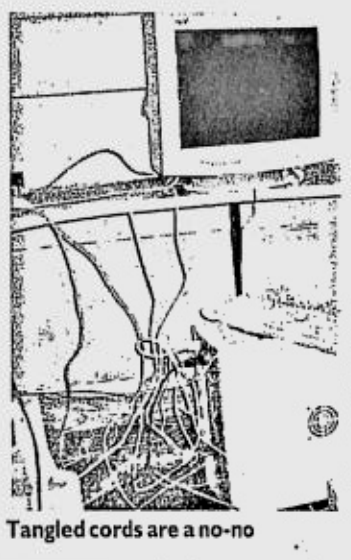
Your skeptic boss might send you packing if you start tearing down the doors and putting three-legged amphibians on the receptionist's desk. An office memo may stop you from rearranging the furniture but it can't stop you from clearing up clutter from your desk.

If you can't change your environment, there is something else that you can have control over, your mind. If you can't apply Feng Shui to your workplace, apply it to yourself. Unclutter your mind and wipe off the cobwebs of negative thoughts, old ways and narrow-mindedness. Open yourself up to change and invite positive energies to fill up your life. It's a new year, reward yourself a fresh start!



Uncluttered hallway

Look ma--no cords!



Tangled cords are a no-no

PHOTOS BY GARY LEJARTE

Employee ...

From page 18

pakikisama attitude. The best way to help your friend is to help her review her financial requirements and process how she can best finance them not just for the short term, but on the long term. It may also mean looking at her current expenditures and do away with the "wants" and stick to the "needs."

But this is now a thing of the past. What is important is to face the facts. You wonder if you could request your employer to help you. You can give this action a try but your employer has no legal right to collect unless the employee grants written permission. Furthermore, the transaction between you and the employee is personal. It has nothing to do with work and your employer has nothing to do with the transaction.

From your letter, I can glean that the person is deep in debt and may not have the capability to pay her loan. You ask if the person can be terminated. I don't think so. The loan has nothing to do with work performance or other causes for termination. In addition, if you work for her termination, the chances are dim that you would ever be repaid.

After exhausting all means to get your co-employee to pay, you have no choice but to settle with the lending company unless you are ready to face the legal consequences. You can negotiate so that they reduce or do away with the interest. Then, negotiate for easy terms.

Now, how do you get your money back? One practical way is to ask your co-employee for some kind of security or collateral to cover the amount of the debt. You may want to consult a lawyer to help you talk with your co-employee to prepare a promissory note with accompanying security. Wishing you all the best in resolving your problem.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP2)
IBRD Loan No. 7152PH

Invitation to Express Interest

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the World Bank, through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), to finance the implementation of the Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP2) being implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the Baseline Study for ARCDP2.

The services are expected to be completed in four (4) months which include: (i) assessment of current conditions in targeted and control Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs); (ii) conduct of a household survey of the 84 ARCs covered by ARCDP2; and (iii) generate baseline information taking into consideration the logframe and performance indicators of the Project. The survey results will be used to make empirical data analysis in future assessments for the project

The Department of Agrarian Reform now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. The team will be composed of:

- Agricultural Economist/Team Leader (4 person-months) – with at least ten (10) years professional experience and experience as a team leader for at least five (5) projects of a nature and complexity equivalent to those in the Terms of Reference. With strong track record in the conduct of baseline and impact studies of agrarian reform projects using the integrated area development approach;
- Institutional/Community Development and Capacity Building Specialist (4 person- months) – with at least five (5) years professional experience and experience as Institutional/Community Development and Capacity Building Specialist (ICDSS) for at least five (5) projects of a nature and complexity equivalent to those in the Terms of Reference. With proven expertise in institutional arrangements with ARCs, ARBs, and government and non-government institutions that support them;
- Statistician – (3 person-months) with expertise in establishing databases for future evaluation of agrarian reform projects, should have extensive experience in design and conduct of cost- and time-effective socio-economic and institutional surveys;
- Resource persons, research assistants, field supervisors, survey enumerators and administrative support staff as required by the technical team

Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar projects, samples of relevant outputs, financial statements for the last 2 years, no. of on-going projects, no. of key staff, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

The consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers*, January 1997 (revised September 1997, January 1999 and May 2002).

Interested consultants may obtain further information from Mr. Adelberto Baniqued at the address below during office hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by no later than 23 February 2004.

Mr. Jose Mari. B. Ponce
Undersecretary, Department of Agrarian Reform
Attn: Adelberto B. Baniqued
Chief Technical Advisor
4/F FAPSO Bldg., DAR Compound,
Elliptical Road, Diliman,
Quezon City, Philippines
Tel: (632) 453-1854, 454-2092, 426-7371
Fax: (632) 454-2092, 426-7371
E-mail: arcdp@philonline.com

JOSE MARI B. PONCE
Undersecretary for Support Services
Executive Director for FAPSO
National Project Director for ARCDP2

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission

JOB VACANCIES

ONE (1) DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENT (SG-27)
Professional Manager preferably with diploma or masteral degree in Biology, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and other natural Sciences; at least 10 years supervisory experience in managing development projects preferably in water resource rehabilitation and environmental management and inter-agency coordination.

ONE (1) ACCOUNTANT III (SG-18)
Certified Public Accountant, at least two years work experience preferably in the government service.

ONE (1) GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM SPECIALIST (GIS, SG-18)
Degree in Engineering or any related field; at least two (2) years experience working with GIS using arcview and PC Arc/Info.

ONE (1) COMPUTER PROGRAMMER (SG-18)
BS Computer Science or Information Technology courses with minimum of two years related work experience in database design and system application using MS Access, visual basic application 6.0 and SQL.

ONE (1) LEGAL OFFICER IV (SG-22)
Has pased the Bar; at least three years experience in handling legal cases, land acquisition, contract preparation and management.

Interested applicants may submit their appplication on or before February 16, 2004 at the:

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC)
2nd Floor, MWSS Engineering Building,
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION

Robinsons Land Corporation High-Rise Buildings Division is in need of the following qualified personnel:

CIVIL/STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Male
- Minimum three (3) years experience in high rise building construction as civil/structural engineer
- Willing to work extended hours

OPERATIONS OFFICER

- College graduate, belonging to top 20% of graduating class
- Minimum three (3) years experience in operations, preferably in real estate or banking
- Attentive to details and highly organized
- Highly analytical
- Good communication skills

Qualified applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumé, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo.

The Administration Dept., Robinsons Land Corporation
32/F Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave. Cor. Poveda St. Ortigas Center, Pasig City; or E-mail:
juanita.king@rlc.com.ph

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1:00 PM to 9:00 PM

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- Effective skills in interpersonal relations
- Confident, outgoing personality, and street-smart in spotting business opportunities
- Male or Female, 21-35 yrs. old

Successful candidate can look forward to a career development in the company with sufficient training opportunities and recognition for worthwhile achievements.

Apply personally at 2209 Jose Abad Santos Avenue near Batangas St., Tondo, Manila with bio-data sheets, 1" x 1" ID photos and transcript of records or call 251-2881
e-mail: yek@mindgate.net

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We are urgently looking for young professionals for the following positions:

MINDANAO BASED openings:

REGIONAL SALES MANAGER

- Male not over 35 years old, College graduate with degree in sales and marketing or any business course;
- With at least 3 years experience in direct selling and networking
- Priority will be given to applicants who reside in Cagayan De Oro or Davao City
- Preferably familiar with surrounding areas of Mindanao and willing to travel to all parts of Mindanao

RECRUITMENT & TRAINING OFFICER

- Male/Female not over 30 years old
- College degree in business, economics or sales related course
- Experience in sales is an advantage
- Hardworking with good interpersonal skills
- Can work w/ minimum supervision
- Computer Literate (MS Word/Excel)
- Priority will be given to applicants who reside in Cagayan De Oro or Davao City
- Preferably familiar with surrounding areas of Mindanao and willing to travel to all parts of Mindanao

FOR HEAD OFFICE (MANILA) openings:

MARKETING MANAGER

- Graduate of marketing, economics, and business course
- Preferably Female below 35 years old
- With 3-4 years experience in marketing and sales
- Willing to travel
- Equipped with supervisory skills and planning skills
- Computer literate especially in design and graphic arts

INTERNAL AUDITOR

- Male/Female, between the age of 25 to 30
- A BS degree in Accounting
- Work experience in internal audit for at least 4 years
- Capable of supervisory work

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Female, Accounting graduate
- With at least 1 year experience in Bookkeeping
- Willing to work overtime

ENCODER

- Female, Accounting graduate
- Computer literate
- Work experience as an Encoder is an advantage

Interested applicants may send their application with picture to:

The Human Resources Division
3260 V. Mapa St., Sta. Mesa 1016 Manila
or e-mail: gwen@wspacific.com.ph

Walk–in and phone follow-up will not be entertained.

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needs the following:

IN-HOUSE DERMATOLOGISTS

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- Female, graduate of medical related course
- Minimum of 2 years experience in supervisory capacity in a reputable facial care company

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

- Industrial Engineering graduate or any related course
- At least 2 years experience in similar capacity

FACIAL CARE AESTHETICIANS

- Female, with medical related studies
- With fair complexion & pleasing personality
- Minimum 2 years experience as aesthetician

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- Graduate of Fine Arts major in Advertising
- Must have extensive experience in design of brochures, print ads, and packaging

BUYER

- At least 2 years experience as buyer
- College graduate

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- With experience in selling to dermatologists, wellness centers & salon
- Familiar with skin care or hair care market

ONLINE STORE OPERATIONS STAFF

- BSBA or Management graduate
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

VAN SALESMAN

- Male, College graduate
- At least 1 year experience in van selling
- With professional driver's license
- Willing to post bond

RECEPTIONIST/HR CLERK

- Female, with pleasing personality
- Graduate of psychology or any related course
- Proficient in oral & written communication

Please send your resumé with 2x2 picture to:

M.C.P.O. Box 3051, Makati City

HONDA

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SALES SUPERVISOR-NORTH LUZON

- Female, 24 to 28 years old , at least 5'2" in height; personable
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Commerce Major in Marketing or of any Engineering course
- With at least 2 years sales experience in a motorcycle or automotive manufacturing company
- Computer literate
- With good communication skills
- Willing to assume provincial assignment
- Holder of a driver's license

APPLICATIONS ENGINEER

- Male, 23-27 years old,
- Licensed Mechanical Engineer
- Detail oriented/ meticulous
- With at least 2 years minimum experience in a motorcycle or automotive manufacturing company
- Familiar with the technical specifications and features of Honda engines vis-à-vis Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) equipment application
- Knowledge in Microsoft Office, Word, Excel, Power Point and AS400
- With good communication skills
- Holder of a driver's license

SALES ASSISTANT

- Female, 23-27 years old, at least 5'2" in height
- Single, with pleasing personality
- Graduate of any business course
- Detail oriented/ meticulous
- Knowledge in Microsoft Office, Word, Excel, Power Point
- With good communication skills

DEALER DEVELOPMENT STAFF

- Male, 24-27 years old, at least 5'6" in height
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Commerce Major in Marketing or of any Engineering course
- With positive working attitude
- Willing to travel in various locations in the country for location studies and inspection
- Knowledge in Microsoft Office, Word, Excel, Power Point
- With good communication skills
- Holder of a driver's license

STAFF ENGINEER

- Male, 23-27 years old,
- Licensed Mechanical Engineer
- With at least 2 years minimum experience in a motorcycle or automotive manufacturing company
- Experience in handling Wastewater Treatment in a plant is necessary
- Computer literate
- With good communication skills
- Must be able to generate reports, design changes and prepare/plan for recommended changes

AUDIT SUPERVISOR

- Male, 27-35 years old
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Commerce or Accountancy
- Preferably CPA
- With at least 2 years minimum supervisory experience in audit work in a
- Knowledge in Microsoft Office, Word, Excel, Power Point
- With good communication skills

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Male, 24-27 years old
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
- Knowledge in Microsoft Office, Word, Excel, Power Point
- With good communication skills

Previous applicants need not apply. If you possess the above-mentioned qualifications, please send up-to-date Resume, Transcript of Records/ Diploma, Certificates of Employment with 2 recent photos to:

Honda Philippines, Inc.
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Km. 17 East Service Road, South Superhighway, Parañaque City

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST

An international organization has an immediate need for a DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST who will be responsible for the design, implementation and evaluation of a wide range of activities in the areas of energy and environment. The activities include reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; the use of clean fuels such as natural gas and renewable energy; power industry restructuring and privatization; increasing efficiencies in power generation, transmission and end use; capacity building of Philippine Government agencies responsible for carrying out the policy reform; maintaining and expanding forest cover to serve as carbon sinks; reduction of air pollution from the transportation sector; and, accelerating the development of renewable energy for rural electrification in remote areas. The incumbent of this position will be involved and will have primary responsibility in the conception, design, development, negotiation and implementation of high visibility and complex programs and projects in the energy/environment sector. As a recognized expert in his/her field, he/she will serve as liaison between the organization's officials and high-level personnel of the Philippine Government, of other donors and of private sector. He/She will provide substantive advice and support in the formulation and administration of the organization's over-all development program in the Philippines, with a specific focus on energy/environment. He/She will be responsible for leading the analysis of energy sector policies, encouraging broad participation in reviewing draft policies, and strengthening institutional capability to implement new policies in the energy sector. Minimum educational requirement is completion of a Bachelor's degree relevant to development assistance such as but not limited to public or business administration, economics, social or physical science, management or education. Completion of post-graduate degree (MPA, MA or MBA) is highly desirable. 's degree relevant to development assistance such as but not limited to public or business administration, economics, social or physical science, management or education. Completion of post-graduate degree (MPA, MA or MBA) is highly desirable. From six (6) to eight (8) years of progressively responsible, professional level experience is expected with at least five (5) years of which should have been in development assistance or related work in reforming policies and building institutional capability in the energy or transportation sectors. Excellent command of English (both written and oral), computer skills, and ability to develop and deliver professional quality reports and presentations are essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan are offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resume, **not later than February 20, 2004**, to :

Human Resources Division
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- Highly computer literate
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- Graduate of any four (4) year business course
- Good oral & written communication skills
- Possesses excellent leadership and motivational skills
- Has an interest in sport and fitness
- Competitive, driven and industrious
- Has the personality and charisma to manage his/her own store
- Eager to pursue a career in sports retailing with the largest and most recognized sports chain in the country
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- Male/Female, 22-25 years old, single
- Graduate of any 4-year business course
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Highly driven, competitive and result oriented

PRODUCT SPECIALIST

(HEALTH & FITNESS / OUTDOOR & WATER SPORTS)

- Male/Female, not more than 29 years old, single
- College graduate of any Science course (for Health & Fitness); college graduate of any 4-year business course (for Outdoor & Water Sports)
- With good communication skills (oral & written)
- Result and customer oriented
- Preferably with sales experience

SALES CLERK

- Male/Female, 18-25 years old, single
- At least 2nd year college level
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- Preferably with sales experience

Qualified applicants may send résumé with 2 x 2 colored picture at:

TOBY'S SPORTS
Human Resources Development Department
143 Pasig Boulevard, Pasig City

Email address: nina.sanjuan@tobyssports.com

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- ✔ Proficient in the English language

those with existing connections in large industrial firms would be highly preferred. Hirees will undergo a training and development period during which a working allowance will be paid. Individuals who meet the above qualifications are guaranteed to earn very generous commissions after the training period.

Send application letter, bio-data and ID picture to:

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EDSA, Mandaluyong City

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(Franchisee of Jollibee Foods Corp.)

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- ☐ Knowlegeable in preparing Financial Statements
- ☐ With good oral and written communication skills
- ☐ Must be familiar with MS Word and Excel applications
- ☐ Must be honest, self-motivated & hardworking

Interested applicants may send their resumé with 2x2 picture to:
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Tel. Nos. 726-1315; Tel./Fax: 724-8680

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or e-mail/inquire at auraathletica@hotmail.com

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Enhance success with Feng Shui at work

By Candy G. Villanueva

WATER is slowly forming a puddle around your newly shined shoes as you helplessly stare at your car's busted tire. You're in the middle of traffic and rain is pouring relentlessly. You've been missing the sales quota for the past three quarters and you're minutes away from missing the deal that could make or break your career. You could raise your fist to the sky and blame the heavens or you could blame bad Feng Shui.

Prevalence of Feng Shui

Practiced thousands of years ago by sages and emperors in the old East, Feng Shui has traveled to the farthest reaches of the West and is now more popular than ever. Even in the modern times of minimalism and Pop art, the art of Feng Shui has found its way to the modern offices of Hong Kong and the bustling business centers of Wall Street. To the uninitiated, is Feng Shui really an important ingredient for success?

Feng Shui is an ancient Chinese art that aims to harmonize one's environment with nature and as a result, bring peace, productivity and prosperity to our lives. Many Chinese believe that our surroundings greatly affect our jobs, relationships, health and every aspect of our daily lives.

Feng Shui means wind and water. Being basic flowing elements, wind and water are believed to affect humans and their environments. Flowing with wind and water is the life force or vital energy called *chi*. Many Chinese believe that the flow of *chi* animates all living things. Working with the flow of *chi* through our environment can bring positive results. By applying Feng Shui to our workplace, it is hoped that productivity and creativity are enhanced and business and financial success follow.

Clear up the clutter

So how can you organize your workplace according to the basics of Feng Shui? Don't fear a full-pledged "tear-down-the-walls" renovation—a little tweaking and tidying up could do wonders.

Start with a clean slate. Allow space for *chi* to flow freely by cleaning up the clutter and getting rid of useless stuff. Junk blocks the flow of energy, which commonly leads to frustrations. Nineteenth century English poet William Morris said, "Have nothing in your house (or in this case, your office) that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful."

Conduct an inventory. Do you really need that ceramic piglet sitting on top of your monitor? Or is it gathering dust simply because you do not want to offend the officemate who gave it to you for Christmas eons ago? Do you even remember where it came from?

Try to keep your desk free of paper and litter. Keep documents properly filed and stored away in folders, drawers and cabinets. Most offices in China do not have paper trays on their desks. Everyday, we accumulate stuff in our space. Keep a wastebasket nearby and clear your table of litter regularly.

Unblock spaces

Also make sure hallways and entryways are unblocked. Fix what needs to be repaired. If something is no longer working, discard. Replace burnt-out bulbs, throw out chipped or cracked pottery, get rid of broken glasses or mirrors and clean up dirt. Organize machine and computer cords neatly and out of sight. Not only will this allow the free flowing of *chi*, organizing cords will also minimize fire hazards.

Feng Shui experts believe that door placement is vital because it is where *chi* passes in and out. Never position your table in front of the main door. Sitting in front of the door makes you vulnerable to negative energies. According to Feng Shui experts, it is like waiting for bad luck to hit you right in the face.

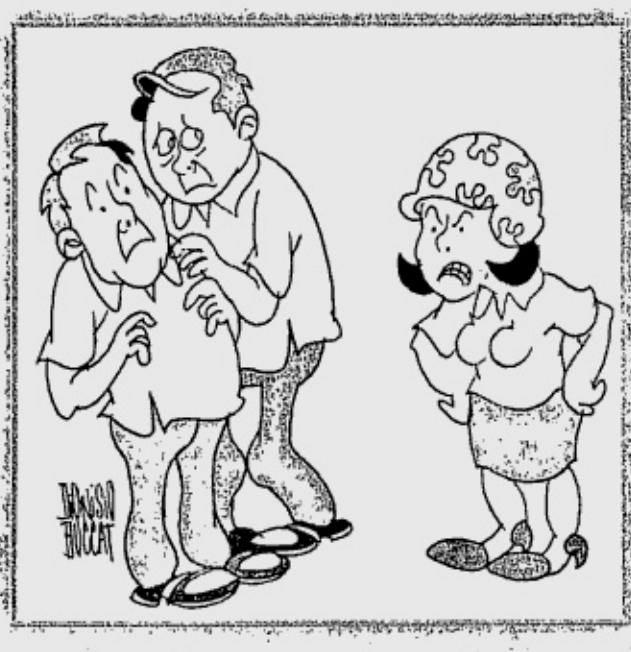
An office adhering to Feng Shui principles PHOTO BY MEL LEE

Managers should also avoid having two doors in the room. According to www.feng shuitips.co.uk, *chi* will simply flow in and out of the two entryways.

Avoid placing any machinery beside the door. Placing the photocopier or fax machine near the entryway will heat up the *chi* that passes thru. *Chi* could also get sucked in empty

ENHANCE/16

What's inside



Working Wounded: How can you improve your facilitation skills?
p. I4

Postcards from the Corporate Edge: How to survive graduate school
p. I4

Employee gets into trouble due to friend's unpaid loan

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice For the Anxious Person at Work

I WOULD like to consult you concerning my problem about my co-employee. Three years ago, I agreed to be a co-maker for an P18,000 loan she applied for from a lending group. Until now she hasn't paid in full and with the cumulative interest, her loan has gone up to around P49,000.

I have received two subpoenas already concerning the bounced checks she issued. I have confronted her about them and made her promise to pay her debt this year. She said that she will borrow from another group and add this to the 13th month pay she expected to get last December. I found out recently about her habit of borrowing and her delinquency in paying her debts. Moreover, I found out that she only got a minimal amount for her 13th month pay because of the previous advances she had made. Some of her retirement benefits have already been cashed.

Can I ask my superior or even the president of the company to intervene and compel her to direct a certain percent of her salary to the lending group so she can settle her debt and release me of my financial obligation as a co-maker? Can she be terminated because of this habit? I found out lately that she has borrowed from another employee a big amount and has not paid her yet. What should I do? Please help. I hope you could take time to answer this and thank you very much in advance.

Helpless Co-maker

I can empathize with your dilemma. You are in a situation similar to many people who cosign for credit cards, loans etc. Employees fail to consider that when they guarantee or cosign for a loan they become co-liable. By now, you are aware that it is a situation you could have avoided in the first place. Before signing legal documents, you have to read the document thoroughly and appreciate the consequence of your action.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Some of us think we are helping our co-employee when we sign as co-maker. We know that getting the person deeper in debt is not the right kind of help. Or we are embarrassed to get clarification because of the

EMPLOYEE/16

Unreasonable boss?

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

A FILIPINO friend who works under a non-Filipino boss in the United States was telling me the other day about the travails of having an unreasonable man above you. "What else could you do but do things his way? He's boss after all!" He said that his is not the ultimate boss—that his boss still has a boss who is also answerable to still another boss, and that the only boss in the company is the one who owns it. I said I certainly didn't envy his position but that he could find consolation in the fact that he wasn't the only one being bossed around. Besides, it's a humongous company and the benefits are the kind many workers would call "to die for."

There are times at work when we have to look for the reason behind the lack of reason in our superiors. Isn't it sometimes said that lack of reason has reasons that reason itself cannot comprehend? And yet, if we bow to this unreasonableness, something unexpected and wonderful happens. A classic case is today's gospel. When Jesus told Peter to lower his net, he probably muttered "Is this man crazy or is he trying to make a fool out of me?" and yet, he did lower his net, and look what happened!

When your boss won't listen to common sense, it's reasonable for you to acknowledge your position in the hierarchy and do as you're told. Purposeful obedience pays off in the long run—for one, it prepares you for future leadership. Be inspired by the example of Peter—he disregarded reason and heeded the reason of his faithful heart—in due time, he became the rock upon whom Jesus built His Church. (*E-mail the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph)

Reflections for the Working Soul

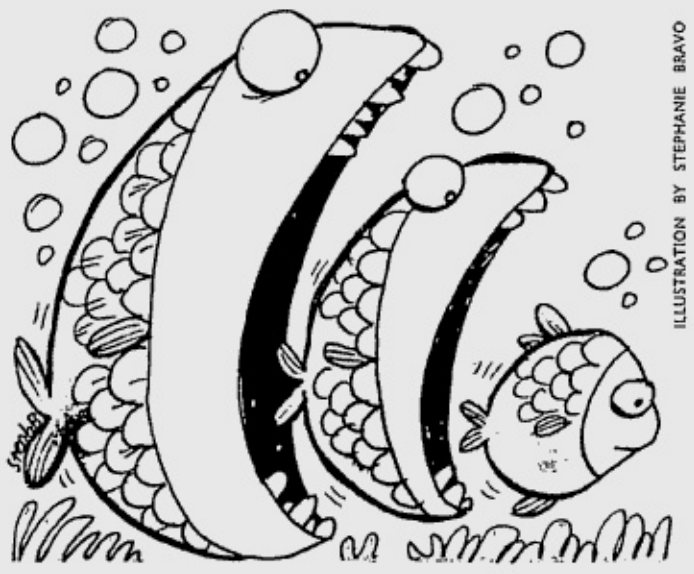


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Gospel Luke 5: 1-11

Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing ...

Moonlighting

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

THE DICTIONARY defines moonlighting as "the practice of holding a second regular job in addition to one's main job." Many of us I believe are engaged in this practice. There are those who are regular workers in one company and yet do the same kind of work for another company or in a private capacity, like a full-time teacher in a school who also teaches in another school or does tutorial sessions. There are also full-time employees of a firm who take on different jobs for other corporations or businesses, like some who work as technicians during the day and serve as waiters or bar tenders at night in clubs. We find many of our *kababayans* abroad doing this.

There are as many variations of this practice of moonlighting as there are so many possibilities for gaining more money through one's works or services. Doing a second or even a third job indeed brings more money to the worker, but the practice can also ruin his health sooner than he expects. It is like working so hard to gain wealth only to spend the wealth acquired to regain the health spent. Is moonlighting then worth the trouble? Which kind, if any, could bring one the best payoff?

Simon the fisherman, in today's gospel, who "worked hard the whole night and caught nothing" took on a "second regular job"—that of recognizing Jesus as Master and obeying the Master's word—thus, he "caught a great number of fish." The worker who makes it a habit to be aware of the presence of God in his life and work, and does honest and sincere efforts in practicing his faith to a degree similar to (if not more than) his industriousness at work, embellishes the dictionary with another meaning to moonlighting. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

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Overseas Section on page J5

Part II

Where You Find The Best.

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- ☑ Single, 22-28 years old

TELEMARKETERS
- ☑ Graduate of any 4 year course
- ☑ Good English communication skills
- ☑ Conversant in Japanese or Mandarin
- ☑ Good marketing skills

Please bring resumé with recent 2x2 ID picture to:

ADDFORCE Personnel Services Inc.
Enaflor Rivera 813-3000 loc 321
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Abu Dhabi, UAE

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- presently employed on a 100 bed capacity hospital
- minimum of 6 months working gap
- good communication skills

Nurse Assistants
- B.S. Midwifery Graduate (licensed)
- 3-5 years hospital experience
- presently employed on a 100 bed capacity hospital
- minimum of 6 months working gap
- preferably with experience in HEMO/NEPHRO/ MEDICAL-SURGICAL/ICU WARD
- 24-40 years of age
- good communication skills

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- 3-5 years hospital experience
- presently employed on a 100 bed capacity hospital
- minimum of 6 months working gap
- 24-40 years of age

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- 24-40 years of age
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Please contact **Ms. Raquel Mapalad**
Tel. No.: 813-3000 loc 424
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Please bring resumé with recent 2x2 ID picture.

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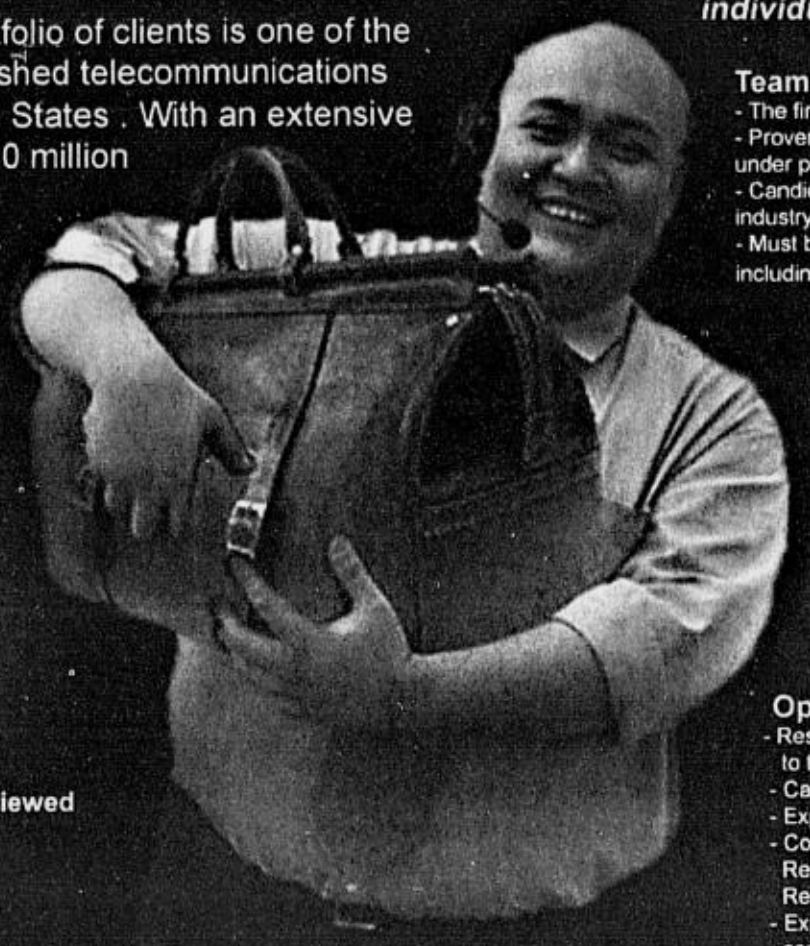

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- Candidate must have 2 to 3 years experience in managing his/her own small business unit (with functional skills in Sales, Finance, HR and Operations).
- Exposure to client-relationship management
- Call center experience a big plus.

Operations Managers
- Responsible for managing the Program involving activities which contribute to the satisfaction and retention of customers.
- Candidate must have 2 to 3 years experience in a call center.
- Exposed to client-relationship management.
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WANTED IMMEDIATELY

PERSONNEL SUPERVISOR
- ✔ With Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Behavioral Science or its related course
- ✔ With 2-4 years experience in recruitment, job appraisal, performance evaluation
- ✔ Capable of relating to individuals of all levels
- ✔ Willing to be assigned to Cavite
- ✔ Not more than 28 years old

TREASURY ASSISTANT
- ✔ Female, Accounting graduate with good scholastic records
- ✔ At least 3 years experience on cash management, banking relation, accounts payable management & some financial accounts analysis
- ✔ Preferably Chinese
- ✔ Manila office based

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT
- ✔ Female Accounting graduate with at least 2 years experience in bookkeeping, financial statement preparation and other Accounting functions
- ✔ Manila office based

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER
- ✔ Male or Female, BS Math or Computer Science graduate
- ✔ With 2 to 3 years experience in computer programming and system analysis
- ✔ Should have background in the smart card business
- ✔ Must be proficient in C, C++, JAVA, and networking
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- ✔ Manila office based

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- ✔ Female IE grads with 3 to 5 years experience in time & motion studies, production line balancing etc.
- ✔ Knows the functions of cutting, sewing, finishing, quality control & merchandise costing
- ✔ Will be assigned in SBFZ, Olongapo City

QUALITY CONTROL HEAD
- ✔ College graduate of Industrial Management Engineering
- ✔ 35 years old & below
- ✔ At least 3 years experience in handling woven items
- ✔ Actual knowledge of sewing operations and technicalities
- ✔ Applicants to be assigned in CEPZ, Cavite or SBFZ, Olongapo City

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER
- ✔ Male/Female, IE grads preferably of Adamson, Mapua
- ✔ Preferably with 1 year experience in garments manufacturing however, fresh grads with good scholastic records can also apply
- ✔ Applicants to be assigned in CEPZ, Cavite or SBFZ, Olongapo City

Qualified applicants can send resumé, transcript of records and ID pictures to:

c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Box No. KA-016-04CA
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 # 636 TM Kalaw St., Ermita Manila

E-mail address: cacsbac@pacific.net.ph

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Or hand in applications at: Rm. 246 Makati Medical Center, # 2 Amorsolo St., Makati City
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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

NOTICE OF VACANCIES

SG	POSITION	OFFICE	QUALIFICATION STANDARDS
27	**Director III**	Legal Service	➢ Lawyer ➢ 3 years of managerial/supervisory experience ➢ Career Executive Service (CES) Eligibility
24	**Chief Accountant**	Financial and Management Service	➢ Masteral degree holder or a practicing licensed Accountant ➢ 4 years in position/s involving management and supervision ➢ 24 hours of training in management and supervision ➢ RA 1080 (CPA)
20	**Medical Officer IV**	Human Resource Development Service	➢ Graduate of Doctor of Medicine ➢ 1 year of relevant experience ➢ 4 hours of relevant training ➢ RA 1080

Please send updated Personal Data Sheet (CS Form 212 revised 2003) and/or Comprehensive Resumé with 2x2 recent picture, photocopy of Transcript of Records, Service Record, Certificate of Employment, training certificate/s, proof of eligibility and Performance Evaluation Rating with at least Very Satisfactory rating for second semester 2003 (for government employees only) to DOLE-HRDS with telephone nos. 5273498, 5273428, 5273580, fax no. 5273568 with e-mail address at **hrds@dole.gov.ph, hrds_dole@yahoo.com, hrds_dole@hotmail.com** at the 5th Floor, DOLE Bldg., Muralla St., Intramuros, Manila **not later than February 13, 2004. Incomplete requirements will not be entertained.**

A Dynamic I.T. Company is looking to fill up the following position:

Account Manager
- Preferably female, 22 to 30 years old
- Graduate of Computer related course or any 4-year courses
- Preferably with previous sales experience from IT firms
- Must be good in verbal and written communication skills
- Hardworking, resourceful and w/ good inter-personal skills

IT Specialist *(for immediate hiring)*
- Preferably male, 23 to 30 years old
- Graduate of Computer Science/Engr. ECE, or related courses
- At least have experience or knowledge in Windows 2000 server and network protocols (TCP/IP & NetBIOS)
- Willing to learn new technologies and must be resourceful
- Willing to conduct technical presentation w/ corporate clients
- Knowledge in any programming is a plus

Interested applicants may submit their resumé personally at this address: **Suite 1116 State Center Bldg., 333 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila Fax # 242-1219 or Email: mediasoft@mediasoftph.com** *(subject "position").*

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

A leading multinational transport company is in URGENT need of a dynamic, assertive and mature professional to occupy the following position in our organization:

MARKETING EXECUTIVE
(MANILA BASED)
- Male or Female, not more than 30 years old, with pleasing personality
- Holder of an appropriate college degree from a reputable school
- Must have relevant sales work experience in the same capacity preferably in air, land and sea transport
- Willing to travel anywhere in the Philippines
- Computer literate, has good communications skills, willing to listen and learn, mature and organized, and can work extended hours

Qualified candidates are requested to ***HANDCARRY & personally submit*** *their comprehensive and detailed resume' indicating the minimum salary desired, latest 2 x 2 photo, telephone number/s and other relevant credentials to:*

MOF Company (Subic) Inc.
6th floor, CTC Building,
2232 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City,
Metro Manila, Philippines

Attention: THE LEGAL & PERSONNEL AFFAIRS DEPT.

A Prestigious Financial Services Company is in need of the following:

MARKETING ASSISTANTS
CREDIT INVESTIGATORS
LOAN CONSULTANTS

Apply in person. Come in proper business attire

G/F Domingo Bldg. II, 2113 Chino Roces Avenue cor. Dela Rosa St., Makati City
(look for KEY FINANCE & INVESTMENT CORP.)

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Tel. 362-6948/270-75-65 (Sunday)
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Join our Team!!!
For Immediate Hiring

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE
Graduate of any course; With experience in any food chain; With good moral character

SERVICE CREW/CASHIERS
Male or Female, 20-28 years old; 5'2 in height, with pleasing personality; At least 2nd year college; With experience in any food chain is a must

BARTENDER / BARISTA
Female, 20-28 years old; 5'2 in height with pleasing personality; At least 2nd year college; With experience in any coffee shop is a must

COOK / ASST. COOK
Male, 30-35 years old; At least 2 years experience in a reputable restaurant; With good moral character

LANEMAN MECHANIC
Male, 30-35 years old; w/ experience in basic computer repair; w/ electrical background

Send your resumé! At

26 Tagupo St. corner Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. 732-0289

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Our company, an importer and exclusive distributor of tires & motor oil brands and authorized distributor of MARIWASA and TOTO products, is in need of dynamic and aggressive individuals. A competitive package awaits the successful candidate for the following positions:

Operations Supervisor
- Male, 25 to 30 years old, graduate of Mgt., Mktg., Acctg. or any related course; Computer literate & excellent communication skills;
- At least 2 yrs. Supervisory experience in the field of sales operations & must also possess salesmanship skills; Shall oversee the day-to-day operations of the co. such as Sales and Dels. & be responsible in supervising the Sales Operations staff

Junior Auditor
- Male, at least 23 yrs. old, pref. CPA; w/ out of town assignments;
- A strong background in financial & operations audit;
- Can design audit systems, polices & procedures.

Sales Officer (Interiors)
- F/M, 24 to 30 yrs. old; Graduate of Mktg., Architecture, Interior Design, Engineering;
- Preferably w/ selling experience in the construction industry.

Sales Officer (Tires)
- Male, Single 25 to 35 years old, Must have valid driver's license
- W/ productive experience in the field of selling consumer items in North Luzon Area.

APPLICANTS MUST SEND THEIR RESUMÉS WITH TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS WITH PICTURE TO:

TASCO, INC.
No. 70 20th Avenue, Murphy, Quezon City
Phone Nos. 9116207; 9118891

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

We are looking for this following positions:

- **Bookkeeper** (Female)
  - With experience in reporting B.I.R.
  - Good in communication skills both oral and written
- **Sales Assistant**
  - With experience in dealing with **ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

HANYANG ELECTRICAL CORPORATION
U-1118 Cityland Shaw Tower, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Tel: 910-2298/6873465

WANTED
SALES AGENT
- At least 2 yrs. experience in Auto Supply shop
- 20-30 years old with good moral character
- At least 2 years college education

Apply with resumé and new 2"x2" ID photo to:

POLO MOTOR OIL
S202 Cortijos Cond. #25 Eisenhower St.
Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. #722-4910

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OUR PORTFOLIO OF CLIENTS JUST KEEPS GETTING BIGGER!

Our latest addition to our portfolio of clients is one of the biggest and most well established telecommunications company based in the United States . With an extensive span that serves more than 20 million business and residential customers, our client delivers a comprehensive selection of local-to-global business data, Internet and voice services to the Fortune 1000 companies.

We are currently in search of ambitious and promising individuals to be part of our dynamic team!

Team Captains
- The first line supervisor of a team of CIAs.
- Proven team player & team leader with great people skills; can work well under pressure; can deliver excellent results with minimum supervision.
- Candidate must posses a minimum 1 year supervisory experience from any industry; call center experience a big plus.
- Must be customer-service and/or sales oriented. Willing to work in shifts including graveyard.

Shift Managers
- Responsible for managing the customer-service and call center departments involving activities which contribute to the satisfaction and retention of customers.
- Candidate must have 2 to 3 years experience in managing his/her own small business unit (with functional skills in Sales, Finance, HR and Operations).
- Exposure to client-relationship management
- Call center experience a big plus.

Operations Managers
- Responsible for managing the Program involving activities which contribute to the satisfaction and retention of customers.
- Candidate must have 2 to 3 years experience in a call center.
- Exposed to client-relationship management.
- Competencies include but not limited to: Business Mastery, Strategic Planning, Report Analysis, Forecasting, Project Management, Organizational Leadership, Relationship Management, Multi-tasking exercises.
- Experience working in a high volume , inbound contact center environment, locally or abroad.

31/F Discovery Center
25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center
Pasig City, 1600
Trunkline: 638.9440
Fax 638.9445

OPEN HOUSE:
Monday-Friday, 10AM-6PM
Walk-ins will be immediately interviewed

submit your resumes online:
recruitment@ambergrissolutions.com

CAMPUS JOB FAIRS:

ambergris solutions

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

PERSONNEL SUPERVISOR
- ✔ With Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Behavioral Science or its related course
- ✔ With 2-4 years experience in recruitment, job appraisal, performance evaluation
- ✔ Capable of relating to individuals of all levels
- ✔ Willing to be assigned to Cavite
- ✔ Not more than 28 years old

TREASURY ASSISTANT
- ✔ Female, Accounting graduate with good scholastic records
- ✔ At least 3 years experience on cash management, banking relation, accounts payable management & some financial accounts analysis
- ✔ Preferably Chinese
- ✔ Manila office based

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT
- ✔ Female Accounting graduate with at least 2 years experience in bookkeeping, financial statement preparation and other Accounting functions
- ✔ Manila office based

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER
- ✔ Male or Female, BS Math or Computer Science graduate
- ✔ With 2 to 3 years experience in computer programming and system analysis
- ✔ Should have background in the smart card business
- ✔ Must be proficient in C, C++, JAVA, and networking
- ✔ Resourceful, fast learner and with good communication skills
- ✔ Manila office based

IE HEAD
- ✔ Female IE grads with 3 to 5 years experience in time & motion studies, production line balancing etc.
- ✔ Knows the functions of cutting, sewing, finishing, quality control & merchandise costing
- ✔ Will be assigned in SBFZ, Olongapo City

QUALITY CONTROL HEAD
- ✔ College graduate of Industrial Management Engineering
- ✔ 35 years old & below
- ✔ At least 3 years experience in handling woven items
- ✔ Actual knowledge of sewing operations and technicalities
- ✔ Applicants to be assigned in CEPZ, Cavite or SBFZ, Olongapo City

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER
- ✔ Male/Female, IE grads preferably of Adamson, Mapua
- ✔ Preferably with 1 year experience in garments manufacturing however, fresh grads with good scholastic records can also apply
- ✔ Applicants to be assigned in CEPZ, Cavite or SBFZ, Olongapo City

Qualified applicants can send resumé, transcript of records and ID pictures to:

c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Box No. KA-016-04CA
Ground Floor, Trinity Bldg.
636 TM Kalaw St., Ermita Manila

E-mail address: cacsbac@pacific.net.ph

EYE BANK FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

a non-profit, non-government humanitarian organization that operates a state-of-the-art eye banking facility dedicated to the collection, processing & distribution of high-quality corneal & eye tissues for transplant is in need of a:

Transplant Coordinator

Interested applicants must:

- be 21-30 yrs. old
- be registered nurses/social workers or psychology graduates
- have aptitude for counseling bereaved families regarding cornea/eye donation

E-mail *application letter, resume and 2x2 picture* to: eyebank@info.com.ph

Or hand in applications at: Rm. 246 Makati Medical Center, # 2 Amorsolo St., Makati City
Deadline for submission of above requirements: 13 February 2004

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

NOTICE OF VACANCIES

SG	POSITION	OFFICE	QUALIFICATION STANDARDS
27	Director III	Legal Service	➢ Lawyer ➢ 3 years of managerial/supervisory experience ➢ Career Executive Service (CES) Eligibility
24	Chief Accountant	Financial and Management Service	➢ Masteral degree holder or a practicing licensed Accountant ➢ 4 years in position/s involving management and supervision ➢ 24 hours of training in management and supervision ➢ RA 1080 (CPA)
20	Medical Officer IV	Human Resource Development Service	➢ Graduate of Doctor of Medicine ➢ 1 year of relevant experience ➢ 4 hours of relevant training ➢ RA 1080

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(MANILA BASED)
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CREDIT INVESTIGATORS
LOAN CONSULTANTS

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(look for KEY FINANCE & INVESTMENT CORP.)

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- A strong background in financial & operations audit;
- Can design audit systems, policies & procedures

Sales Officer (Interiors)
- F/M, 24 to 30 yrs. old; Graduate of Mktg., Architecture, Interior Design, Engineering;
- Preferably w/ selling experience in the construction industry

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- Male, Single 25 to 35 years old. Must have valid driver's license
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We are looking for this following positions:

- **Bookkeeper** (Female)
  - With experience in reporting B.I.R.
  - Good in communication skills both oral and written
- **Sales Assistant**
  - With experience in dealing with ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

HANYANG ELECTRICAL CORPORATION
U-1118 Cityland Shaw Tower, Shaw Blvd.,
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Join our Team!!!
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MANAGEMENT TRAINEE
Graduate of any course; With experience in any food chain; With good moral character

SERVICE CREW/CASHIERS
Male or Female, 20-28 years old; 5'2 in height, with pleasing personality; At least 2nd year college; With experience in any food chain is a must

BARTENDER / BARISTA
Female, 20-28 years old; 5'2 in height with pleasing personality; At least 2nd year college; With experience in any coffee shop is a must

COOK / ASST. COOK
Male, 30-35 years old; At least 2 years experience in a reputable restaurant; With good moral character

LANEMAN MECHANIC
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Send your resumé At

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Tel. No. 732-0289

WANTED

SALES AGENT
- At least 2 yrs. experience in Auto Supply shop
- 20-30 years old with good moral character
- At least 2 years college education

Apply with resume and new 2"x2" ID photo to:

POLO MOTOR OIL
S202 Cortijos Cond. #25 Eisenhower St.
Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. #722-4910

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UV Helper
- Experience in operating UV Machine
- College level

UV Coater/Sheeter Operator
- Experience in UV Coater and sheeter operation
- Team player
- College level

Assistant Printer
- Preferably 2 years experience sheet fed operation
- Fast learner
- College level

Guillotine Technician
- Experience in polar cutter operation
- Fast learner

Folding M/C Technician
- Engineering background
- Previous experience on operator of STAHL folding preferred
- Analytical/fast learner
- Team player

Saddle Stitcher Technician
- Preferably engineering background
- Analytical/fast learner
- Team player

Commercial Printing Sales/ Account Executive
- Graduate of any business course from reputable school
- With 2 or more years experience in multi-color commercial print sales.
- An entrepreneurial spirit with five figure income expectations is highly desirable
- Must be able to present well in business-to-business situations along with the prospecting and lead development skills.
- Candidates should have strong written and oral communication skills.
- Must be proactive individual.

PRODUCTION PLANNING MANAGER
- Chemical Engineering graduate with MBA or MBA units
- Male/Female at least 30 years old
- With good communication and interpersonal skills
- Total work experience should be 7 years with 2-3 years of which is in a supervisory position
- Experience in production operation, material and production planning, quality control, safety, sanitation, fire protection, and environmental protection is a must
- Technical knowledge and experience in ink manufacturing is preferred
- Exposure in formulating manufacturing policies, programs and standards, product costing/pricing, sourcing and maintenance of raw material stocks, analysis and evaluation of plant operations, its variances from standard/ targets and institution of corrective measures is an advantage.

Press Operator
- Male/Female
- Previous experience preferred
- College level preferred

Bindery
- Mechanical eng'g/EE/ECE graduates (not licensed)
- Male/Female
- Willing to work in industrial environment

ACCOUNTING ANALYST
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree or Professional License (Passed Board/Bar/ Professional License Exam) in Finance/ Accountancy/Banking or equivalent.
- must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Required skill(s): word, excel, power point.
- At least 2 year(s) of working experience in the related field is required for this position.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Mamplasan Laguna (shuttle service available).
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in Finance - General/Cost Accounting or equivalent.
- Full-Time positions available.

Advertising Assistant
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Mass Communications, Journalism, Marketing, Advertising/Media or equivalent.
- Female between 20-25 years old
- Pleasing Personality.
- Must know how to write simple letters.
- Must know how to answer simple inquiries.
- Must be able to communicate well with other departments and clients.
- Must be able to make written and numbered reports.
- Systematic and organized with her work load.
- Required skill(s): MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint.
- At least 1 year(s) of working experience in the related field is required for this position.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in Advertising Client Servicing/ or equivalent.
- Full-Time positions available.

Junior Mechanical Technician
- Candidate must possess at least a Vocational Diploma / or at least 2nd year college
- Experience in mechanical work or any related function
- Can Interpret mechanical/electrical diagram
- Knowledge in mechanical installment
- Experience in maintenance facilities including: gen-set, compressor, greasing paints
- Analytical, Resourceful and flexible
- Willing to work on shifting schedule
- Computer Literate
- At least 2 year(s) of working experience in the related field is required for this position.
- Applicants must be willing to work in -Mamplasan Laguna.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in Engineering - Mechanical or equivalent.

Applicants for all position must be willing to be assigned in Mamplasan, Laguna (shuttle service available) Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

Qualified applicants are requested to submit a comprehensive resumé, recent 2x2 picture and a photocopy of Transcript of Records.

FEP Printing Corporation
Loule R. Prieto Press Building
Mascardo Street near corner Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Or Email aoasan@fep.ph/rbalingit@fep.ph

Elite Garments International, Inc.
owner and manufacturer of established brand names for the local and export market

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Requirements:
* Must be a Certified Public Accountant
* Age: 28 to 43 yrs.old,Female

Qualifications:
* Competencies in all areas of Accounting operations in a large retail or manufacturing company.
* At least 3 years relevant accounting work experience in a managerial capacity
* Solid grasp of BIR regulations, reportorial & payment requirements and other tax-related matters.
* Strong supervisory & leadership skills.

FIELD INVENTORY CLERKS
* Female, Accounting graduate, below 30 yrs.old
* Computer literate
* willing to do field works
* Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

Send resume' with school credentials or fax/e-mail at:
PERSONNEL DEPT.
996 P. Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila
Tels. #525-0862/523-0957 Fax # 521-36-71
E-mail :grace @elitegarments.com
or E-mail: egiihrd@yahoo.com

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Be a part of a Continuously growing snack food industry! We are in need of high caliber applicants to apply for Following positions:

Qualified applicants may e-mail or send their resume with 2x2 picture to:

Rebisco
REPUBLIC BISCUIT CORPORATION
Human Resources Department
650 Brgy. Llano, Llano Road, Caloocan City
E-mail Address: hrd@rebisco.com.ph

AREA SALES MANAGER
- Male 30-40 years old
- Graduate of Marketing, Management or any business related course
- With at least 4 years supervisory experience in sales
- Experienced in handling consumer goods
- With good oral/ written communication skills
- Has excellent leadership skills

SALES MANAGEMENT TRAINEE
- Male, 24-30 years old, graduate of any business related course
- Preferably Chinese speaking
- With at least 1 year supervisory experience in sales
- Preferably with experience in merchandising and handling consumer goods
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Willing to accept provincial assignments

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
- Graduate of Business Administration, Marketing, Mass Communication or any related course
- With at least 3 years work experience in a supervisory level
- With solid background in business & accounts management and PR work preferably from a food manufacturing company
- Knowledgeable in Marketing Techniques, Advertising and Promotions Concept

R&D SUPERVISOR
- With 3-5 years related experience in the development of candies, chewy, and other confectionery products
- Knowledgeable in process development and optimization
- Willing to be assigned in Canlubang Laguna

FIELD AUDITORS
- Male, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of BS Accountancy, with at least 1-2 years related experience
- Ability to speak Fookien or Mandarin is an advantage
- With excellent knowledge in Auditing and Accounting Systems
- Willing to be assigned in China and various provinces of the country

---

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

ACCOUNTANT
- ✓ knowledge in financial statement preparation & analysis/computer literate
- ✓ with at least 1 year work experience as head of the accounting department
- ✓ passed the CPA licensure exams
- ✓ should not be more than 35 years old
- ✓ good command of written & oral communication skills

The candidate will report directly to the president. He/She will be required to prepare reports vital to management decisions. The salary we offer is highly competitive depending upon the qualification of the candidate.

BOOKKEEPER
- ✓ female
- ✓ accounting graduate
- ✓ computer literate
- ✓ with at least 1 year related work experience

SECRETARY/OFFICE ADMINISTRATION GRADUATE
- ✓ Computer literate
- ✓ Proficient in both oral and written English
- ✓ New graduates are welcome

Call 896-0970, 896-074244, 897-5269 (look for Dess)

A Market Leader in Packaging Needs:

Production Supervisor
- Male, below 30 years old, Engineering graduate
- At least 5 years supervisory experience & willing to work 12-hour shifts
- Experience in plastic packaging firm is an advantage

Maintenance Supervisor
- Graduate of Engineering, preferably Electrical Engineering or ME
- 5 years experience in manufacturing firm on same capacity
- Good leadership skill & willing to work 12-hour shifts

Logistics Assistant
- Male or Female, Graduate of a reputable university
- Previous experience in delivery & scheduling an advantage
- Experience in dealing with shipping lines
- Mature and can work with minimum supervision

Marketing Secretary
- Female, Graduate of a reputable university
- Minimum 3 years secretarial or administrative experience, preferably in sales
- ***Will be promoted to Sales Executive & receive the following benefits:***
  - ***High salary + Commissions***
  - ***Car Plan + Travel Opportunities***

Send/E-mail (mibenedicto@unibag.com.ph) complete resumé with latest 2x2 photo to:
P.O. Box 4137 Manila (Attn: Finance & Admin. Manager)

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL
Vivre debout

We are in need of a **PROJECT MANAGER for Cagayan de Oro** who will be responsible for the implementation and follow-up of the activities on the construction, operation and management of a wheelchair production center.

His/her duties and responsibilities will be to:
- Deal and follow-up with contractors
- Make budget follow-ups and reports to funding agencies
- Manage a team of 25 personnels
- Work with the different partners in the project
- Assure the financial sustainability of the project
- Develop and deliver timely and quality reports

Qualifications:
- Minimum 5 years experience as a Project Manager on development projects supported by funding agencies, with relevant experience in NGOs
- Capable of making initiatives and decisions
- Possesses keen skills in assessment and analysis
- Knows how to manage a budget, particularly with cost-sharing

THIS POSITION IS FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Please send your application letter* and resumé and/or CV through fax or e-mail to:

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL
E-mail: hiphil03@yahoo.com Fax No.: (02) 817-0147
(*State reason why you are interested to apply)

The Little Gym®

JUST FOR KIDS INC.
Owner and operator of The Little Gym in the Philippines
Level 1, Bonifacio Technology Center,
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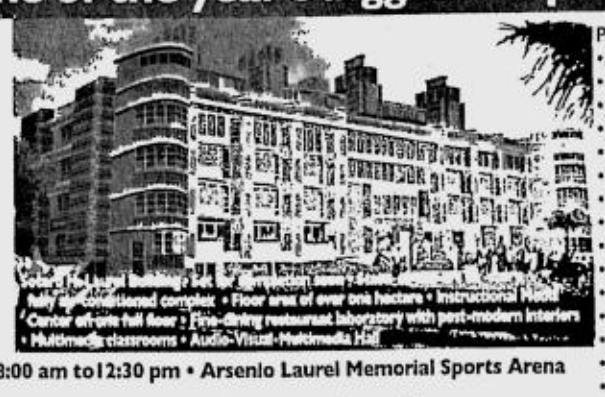

Employers' Conference • 8:00 am to12:30 pm • Arsenio Laurel Memorial Sports Arena

8:00-9:00 Registration

9:00-9:30 Invocation **Mrs. Esmenia R. Javier**, VP for Administration, Lyceum of Batangas
National Anthem **Lyceum Music Ensemble**
Welcome & Opening Remarks **Mrs. Fe R. Medina**, VP for Student Services/Registrar, Lyceum of Batangas
Inspirational Talk **Hon. Peter P. Laurel**, Vice-Governor, Batangas Province
President, Lyceum of Batangas

9:30-9:55 *Unemployment in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia and the New Commitment of Lyceum School System in Industry-Academe Linkages* **Joselito B. Gutierrez**, Director, Lyceum School System

9:55-10:20 *Industry-Academe Linkage in Region IV: Progress Report covering the period 1998-2002* **Mrs. Virginia C. Anonuevo**, Education Specialist II, Commission on Higher Education IVA

10:20-10:30 Snacks

Launching of Lyceum Electronic Employment Database System

10:30-10:55 *DOLE in a Nutshell and Present Employment Needs in Region IV and in the Country* **Hon. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas**, Secretary, Department of Labor & Employment

10:55-11:20 *Present Employment Opportunities Abroad Through POEA* **Carmelita S. Dimzon** Deputy Administrator, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

11:20 - 11:45 *SPI Healthcare Documentation Inc. - Company Talk* **Alethea P. Ginez** Corporate Recruitment Manager, SPI Technologies Inc.

11:45-12:30 Ribbon-Cutting by **Hon. Sec. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas** to be assisted by **Hon. Peter P. Laurel**

Lunch

- Open Forum **Dr. Flora V. Javier**, VP for Academic Affairs, Lyceum of Batangas
- Recap & Resolution **Dr. Remedios T. Magnaye**, Alumni Officer/ABOA Faculty, Lyceum of Batangas
- Awarding of Plaque and Token of Appreciation

Recruitment & Exhibit Proper • 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
• Arsenio Laurel Memorial Sports Arena & Sotero H. Laurel Bldg.

Participating Employers & Exhibitors
- *All Asia Customer Services Inc.*
- *Customer Contact Center*
- *Jobsdb.com*
- *Job Station Company Inc.*
- *Philippine-RN Recruitment Agency Inc.*
- *Philips Semiconductor Corporation*
- *Sara International Manpower Svs. Inc.*
- *SPI Technologies*
- *Zenith Food Corporation*
- *Assessment Technologies Institute Inc.*
- *Binondo Media Publication*
- *ICSEC-KAPLAN, Philippines*
- *Lyceum of Batangas-HRMD*
- *Remec Manufacturing Philippines, Inc.*
- *Seven Seven Global Resources Corp.*
- *Shoemart Inc.*
- *SM Retail Affiliates*
  - ❑ *Ace Hardware Philippines Inc.*
  - ❑ *Hardware Workshop Inc.*
  - ❑ *Homeworld Shopping Corporation*
  - ❑ *International Toyworld Inc.*
  - ❑ *Nursery Care Corporation*
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- *Graduate of Behavioral Science or Industrial Engineering, preferably with MBA/MA in HRM or related course*
- *With ten (10) years of progressive work experience in Organizational and Human Resources Management and Development, five (5) year of which is in a managerial capacity*
- *With strong strategic analysis and business sense, planning, organizing, coordinating, interpersonal and problem-solving skills*
- *Decisive and performance driven*
- *With a high degree of integrity and professionalism; principle-centered and values-driven*
- *Knows how to drive and with valid driver's license*
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Qualified candidates may personally submit or mail their application letter, curriculum vitae, recent 2"x2" photo, transcript of records & other pertinent credentials to:

The HR Manager
LausGroup Corporate Center
Human Resources Management Department
San Fernando-Olongapo Highway
City of San Fernando (P)
Tel: (045) 963-2525 Telefax (045) 961-56-18 Mobile: 0921-210-8155
E-mail: hrmd@lausgroup.com

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- 10 years experience – minimum
- Superior in oral and written English.
- Computer Literate.
- Excellent Human Relationship Skills.
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- Works with minimum supervision.
- Willing to work long hours including Saturdays. Some foreign travel may be required.

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The successful candidates will be sales enthusiasts who are motivated by accomplishment and the opportunity to earn substantial compensation.
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- College Graduate. Excellent English skills.
- Computer Literate
- Results oriented with minimum supervision. Self-motivation and innovation a must.
- Willing to work early evenings and Saturdays.

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The successful candidates must have a contemporary upscale image with high energy and good PR skills.
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Male, 20-29 years old, engineering graduate, willing to travel and be assigned anywhere

SALES STAFF
Male/Female, 20-29 years old, college graduate, excellent oral and written communication skills, with sales experience, an advantage

Send bio-data with picture at:
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Islamic foundation providing financial aid to Muslim communities throughout the world seeks to expand its financial program to the Southern Philippines. Development Consulting Group (DCG), which manages accounts for this foundation, is accepting applications for Muslim consultants who can provide accurate and in-depth information on political and economic risks that impact development in the Islamic community in the Philippines. Applicants must have excellent personal and professional contacts in the Philippine Muslim community. Preferred applicants will speak English and Arabic.

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Suite 1903B West Tower, PSE Centre
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- Outstanding interpersonal, oral communication and presentation skills
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Male/Female, Single/Married, College graduate of any course.
Apply in person with resumé & any original credentials.
Hiring will be on Monday to Saturday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, February 9-14, 2004

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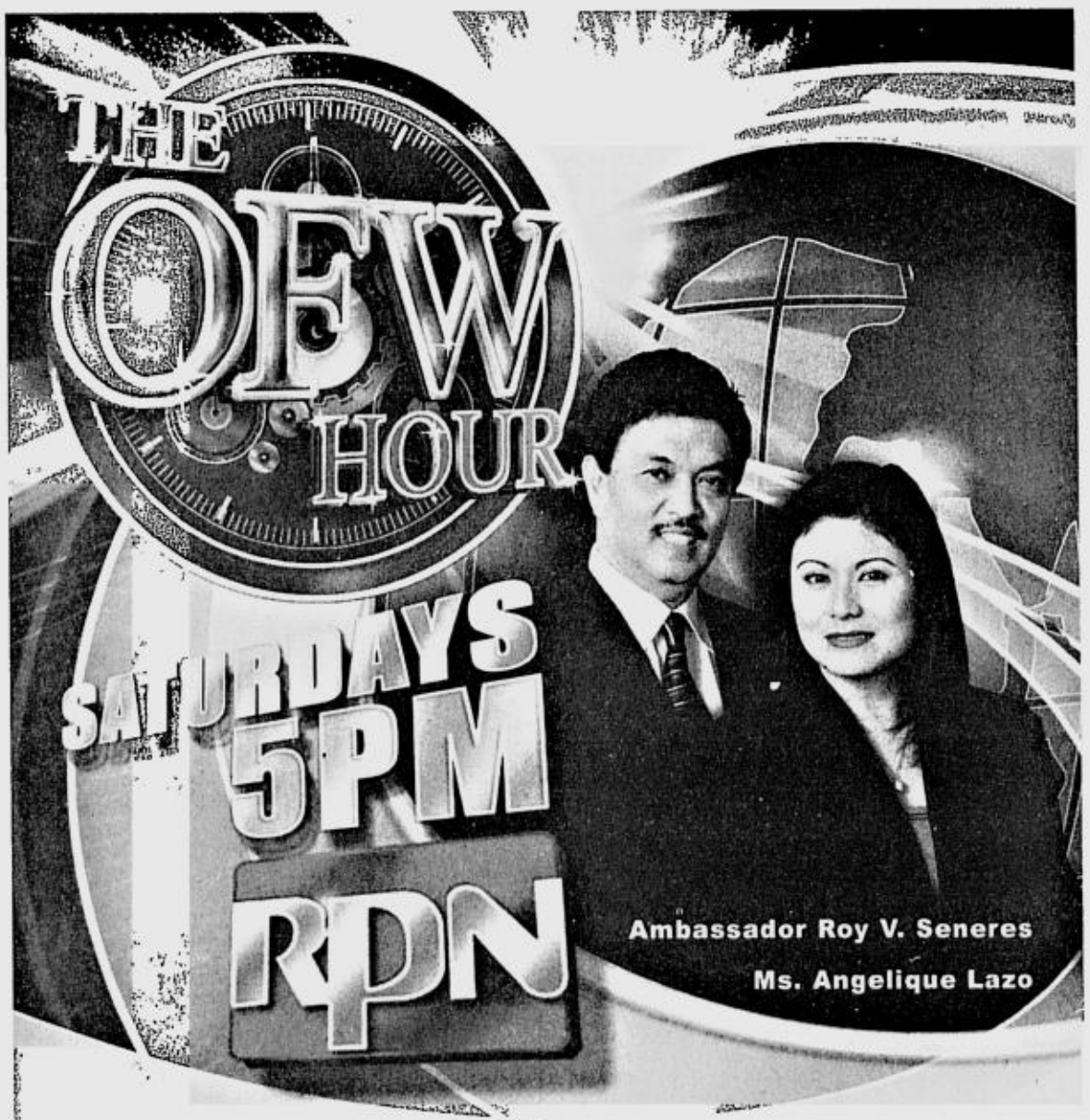

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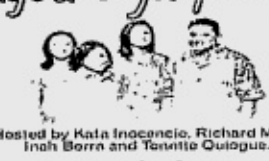

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Job Responsibilities:
- Work closely with the Call Center Operations Head and other counterparts to identify business and service improvement opportunities, as well as to achieve the call center's mission and objectives
- Assist in designing and implementing strategies, policies, planning and management control systems for the call center to achieve the highest level of productivity, operations effectiveness, quality and customer satisfaction, and therefore improve the Call Center's financial condition and competitive edge in the industry
- Act as a driver in establishing and implementing best practices across all business activities to make customer service a hallmark and major competitive advantage of our company
- Assist the Director in projecting an excellent image of the call center
- Exercise proper control in operating and budgetary cost
- Direct and lead the pre-defined service streams of call center operations staff in order to deliver professional, effective and quality tele-service/tele-sales to existing and potential customers
- Proactively seek feedback from staff to facilitate improvements in sales, service, operations efficiency and customer satisfaction
- Train/Develop a highly professional workforce by motivating and coaching, supported by an appropriate reward system and management training program for staff career development

Job Requirements:
- University graduate preferably in Business, Engineering or Social Sciences
- Minimum 5 years experience in call center business, of which 3 years are in management and at least 2 years in Telemarketing management
- Willing to work on shift
- Customer-focused and performance driven
- Strong leadership, with sound business acumen
- Thorough productivity and quality management knowledge
- Good team building and interpersonal skills; ability to communicate effectively with people at all levels
- Excellent analytical and problem solving skills
- Excellent presentation skills, communication skills and proposal writing skills
- Strong negotiation skills
- Work experience in insurance business application, finance or related industry is an advantage

TELEMARKETERS

Job Responsibilities:
- Handle telemarketing / tele-sales projects
- Interview prospective clients and ask/check for relevant personal information
- Explain to clients required information to process application

Job Requirements:
- College graduate, not more than 30 years old
- Computer literate
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Willing to work on sales targets
- Telemarketing / tele-sales experience is an advantage

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Job Responsibilities:
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Job Requirements:
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- Computer literate
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
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Civil Engineer

You will provide and develop expertise to ensure technically sound, cost effective engineering advice to all clients within the Asia Pacific region on general civil, storage and marine engineering related issues. Contribution to service opportunities and keeping abreast of new civil engineering design, construction, inspection and maintenance techniques and developments in petrochemical facilities are expected. In addition, you will need to design and detail specification packages for new project facilities.

To excel in this role, you should possess a Civil Engineering degree and 5 – 10 years' civil engineering experience, preferably with customers in oil, gas or chemical industries. Working knowledge of structural engineering, site selection, waterfront-jetty structures/wharfs, conventional and LPG storage and project budgeting and scheduling is required.

All applicants must have excellent interpersonal skills and a strong command of English; additional proficiency in other languages will be advantageous.

For further job details and to apply online, please visit our website and select **Job Search/Job Category** (All); **Region** (Asia, India Subcontinent and Oceania). Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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Candidate must be an aggressive sales person who can effectively lead an entire department in the pursuit of business goals. To do this he/she must have an extensive experience in direct selling and in positively leading people. Having a vast network in the same industry would be a big plus. Good business acumen, tenacity, flexibility, and high computer literacy are competencies that would spell success in the post.

SALES SUPERVISOR – NORTH LUZON

The position is responsible for the effective implementation of marketing strategies in his assigned area of coverage in order to achieve overall sales targets

Qualifications:
Graduate of any business course from university
With at least 3 years experience in sales and/or marketing, preferably in the food industry and with broad exposure in budgeting, forecasting and business planning
Extensive network in retail, hotel and restaurant industry
Should be a resident of Tarlac or nearby municipalities.

QUALITY ASSURANCE ASSISTANT

To provide support to the company's efforts on documentation and re-engineering of operational procedures as well as in the maintenance of a quality system in the organization

Qualifications:
Graduate of any business course, with well-honed skills in documentation, organization, and communication
With at least two years of experience in quality systems and re-engineering in a consumer industry. Exposure to ISO, internal quality audit, process and failure analyses are an advantage
With above-average computer skills (Microsoft Access, Visual Basic)

INDUSTRIAL SALES ASSOCIATE

Basic Function: To assist the organization in the pursuit of sales targets in the area of raw materials for food ingredients, in the promotion of new lines, and in building and maintaining good relationships with both customers and suppliers

Qualifications:
Female, graduate of Food Technology or any related course
With at least 2 years sales experience in food manufacturing or the pharmaceutical sector

KEY ACCOUNTS SPECIALIST/ SALES SUPERVISOR

The position will be responsible for formulating and implementing plans for Key Corporate Accounts with respect to sales, product endorsements, and client relations to achieve assigned sales target

Qualifications:
Graduate of four year course preferably in business or economics
With at least 3 years experience in sales and/or marketing, preferably in the food industry and with broad exposure in budgeting, forecasting and business planning
With extensive network in hotel and restaurant industry

INFO MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

The position would be assigned to gather, consolidate, and present in logical format all relevant information that would aid management in making important business decisions. She is expected to recommend actions that would improve efficiencies, increase productivity and overall performance of the Sales Department. She reports directly to the National Sales Manager

Qualifications:
Preferably female who is a graduate of a business course in Math, Statistics, or Business Management
With at least 3 years work experience as an Analyst or Statistician dealing with sales figures. Supervisory experience is preferred.
With above average mental ability and computer know-how. Good coordination and people skills would be a plus.

Interested applicants may send their application letters, along with pertinent papers to the following address:

ScanAsia Overseas Inc.
3rd floor Molave Bldg., 2231 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City

Or you may also send your application letters via email at hrd@scanasia.ph

URGENT HIRING!!!

POWER PLANT FACILITY OPERATORS

- Male
- Not more than 38 years old
- A licensed Electrical or Mechanical Engineer
- With at least 2 to 3 years work experience in a power plant
- Knowledgeable in a day-to-day operation & maintenance of a power generator plant (checking of diesel engines, power generators and control panels)
- Must have a basic computer knowledge
- Willing to work in long hours and night shift schedule

Interested applicants may apply personally with resume, 2x2 photo, licensed and other credentials at:

H.R.D. (SINGAPORE) PTE., LTD.
Lot 7, Block 9, Phase I, Cavite Export Processing Zone
Rosario, Cavite 4106
(046) 437-1188

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

AUDIT SUPERVISOR

Qualifications:
- Accounting graduate, a Certified Public Accountant
- Preferably with MBA units
- 2 years experience in accounting and audit work,
  1 year management experience
- Knowledge of General Accounting and Auditing Principles and Procedures
- Knowledge of Standards for Professional Practice of Internal auditing
- Knowledge of Financial Data analysis, Taxation, Labor Laws.

Responsibilities:
- Supervises audit projects in order to ensure systems and procedures are implemented.
- Audits based on IIA and dept standards to ensure compliance
- Prepares communicates audit reports based on the evaluation/findings and recommends appropriate actions.

PREPRESS SPECIALIST

Qualifications:
- College graduate preferably with background in computer
- 2 years experience in prepress work in a publication
- Knowledge in pagemaker, photoshop or any related pagination software

Responsibilities:
- Scans photos, images of ads and executes electronic imposition for the newspaper pages
- Executes page layout/design
- Receives laid out/designed pages and processes them through the Postscript and Raster Image Process stations.

EDITORIAL SYSTEMS ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

Qualifications:
- College graduate preferably Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- 1-2 years experience on this job or jobs leading to it
- Knowledge in Visual Basic or powerbuilder, VB Scripting or Perl Scripting, Web programming, MS SQL 2000 or Sybase SQL or other database management (RDBMS)

Responsibilities:
- Responsible for systems analysis, design and development of specific customized software application required by the company
- Documents software applications for in-house user training

LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Library Science
- 1-2 years experience in this job or any related job
- Knowledge of basic library keeping principles

Mail your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

COMPUTER OPERATOR

- ✓ Female
- ✓ Familiar with different MS OS and MS Office
- ✓ Knowledgeable with minor Software, Hardware and LAN troubleshooting
- ✓ With high analytical skills
- ✓ Not more than 26 years old
- ✓ With pleasing personality

* Proficiency in MS Access is a **PLUS**

Contact Persons:
Dess or Leandro
896-0970, 896-0742/44

TREND AIR CONDITIONING, a Mech Contractor, needs a
Sales Consultant
w/ sales exp. in ME Svcs, Coll. grad (pref ME), computer literate, age 21-39
Kath/ Letty 8375358 or 8374168 loc 203

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Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.
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BE PART OF OUR TEAM!
We are **IMMEDIATELY** in need of the following:

HR OFFICER
- ☒ Psychology graduate with good scholastic records
- ☒ With at least 3 years working experience in the same field
- ☒ Has knowledge on HR Functions such as Recruitment, Psych Testing
- ☒ Has broad knowledge in labor laws
- ☒ Can work under extreme pressure
- ☒ High emotional quotient is a must
- ☒ Female, 28 years old and below

TRAINING OFFICER
- ☒ Communication Arts, Behavioral Science or Education graduate
- ☒ With good verbal and communication skills
- ☒ With pleasing personality
- ☒ Has knowledge in corporate planning
- ☒ Female, 22-26 years old
- ☒ Can work under extreme pressure
- ☒ High Emotional Quotient is a must

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
- ☒ Male/Female, between 21-26 years old
- ☒ With pleasing personality
- ☒ At least 5'5" & 5'2" tall respectively
- ☒ A graduate of any 4-year course preferably in management
- ☒ With good scholastic records
- ☒ Possess a sense of leadership & good communication skills
- ☒ Trustworthy, hardworking & customer-oriented
- ☒ Can work with less supervision and willing to work long hours
- ☒ Residing in the areas of Cavite, Laguna, Marikina & Rizal
- ☒ Willing to attend a series of trainings in Manila Office

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATES
- ☒ Male/Female; between 18-22 years old
- ☒ With pleasing and charming personality
- ☒ Stand 5'5" & 5'2" tall respectively
- ☒ At least 2nd year College Level
- ☒ With or without experience
- ☒ Trustworthy, hardworking & customer oriented
- ☒ Residing in the areas of Cavite, Laguna, Marikina & Rizal
- ☒ Willing to work on flexi schedules
- ☒ Willing to attend series of trainings in Manila office

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resumé & credentials to any VIDEO CITY Stores located at Cavite, Laguna, Marikina (Parang & Concepcion) & Rizal (San Mateo, Montalban & Calnta Junction). Applicants who are ready for interviews and examinations may bring their resumé and original requirements to our head office at #29 First St. cor. Gilmore Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City (near St. Paul College, Q.C.) Tel. Nos. 7246356/7250074/7250319.

We entertain applicants with complete original requirements only.

- NBI Clearance
- SSS
- Medical Certificate
- Employment Certificate
- Transcript of Records
- Police Clearance
- Birth Certificate
- Drugtest (Shabu & Marijuana)
- Employment Clearance
- Picture 4 pcs. 1x1 and 2 pcs. 2X2 white background

SIBS PUBLISHING HOUSE, INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

MAILING LIST SPECIALIST/ PROMO STAFF

Qualifications
- 23-30 years old, male
- college graduate
- computer literate – MS office, Foxpro, with knowledge in using Corel and Pagemaker (an advantage)
- can work with minimum supervision
- team player
- can do multiple tasks
  - In-charge of the House mailing-list – data bank of customer-schools, educational organizations and authors.
  - updating of Educators Journal (EJ), Educators Diary (ED) and birthday lists
  - print-out of monthly mailing labels for EJ and birthday cards
  - do layout tasks (banner, streamer, handouts, nametags, certificates, forms, etc.)
  - support staff in seminars and exhibits

Please bring resumé with transcript of records and letter of application to:

Unit 810, 8/F Globe Telecom Plaza II
Pioneer Highlands
Pioneer corner Madison Streets
1552 Mandaluyong City
c/o IRIS

Wanted Immediately

Logistics Supervisor
- Must be graduate of Industrial / Management Engineer
- 2-3 years experience in central warehousing system
- Willing to work in Meycauayan, Bulacan

Accounting Clerk
- With or without experience
- Knows how to operate Peachtree or MYOB Accounting
- Willing to work in Meycauayan, Bulacan

Please send your resumé with picture to ewearco@hotmail.com

Southville International School and Colleges

internationally accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), USA

Take the challenge of joining a dynamic educational institution committed to excellence!

For schoolyear 2004-2005, we are actively seeking for faculty and staff who are committed to develop learners to become movers of society.

• GS AND HS TEACHERS
- Preferably BEE or BSE graduate or any related course
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Specialization in any of the following subjects is a must: Business Math (Entrepreneurship/ Accounting), Reading, Social Studies, World History, MANDARIN/CHINESE, Physical Education, English, ESL, Reading, Math,Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology), Filipino, Computer Education, Art, Values Education, Math (Algebra, Geometry, Statistics, Calculus), Values
- Preferably with PRC (LET) License

• ACCOUNTING STAFF
- Graduate of BS Accountancy (fresh graduates are welcome to apply)

• PROMOTIONS/MARKETING SPECIALIST
- Graduate of any communications/marketing course
- Has experience in brand management
- With pleasing personality and has excellent oral and written communication skills

• PRESCHOOL TEACHERS
- College graduate with specialization in Early Childhood Education
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- With pleasing personality and must not be more than 30 years old

• MIS Consultant
- Has MS and PhD in any field of IT/Computer

• SCHOOL NURSE
- Is a registered nurse

• SCHOOL DENTIST/PHYSICIAN
• HRD STAFF
- Graduate of BS Psychology with at least one year experience in training and/or other human resource functions

• SCHOOL REGISTRAR

S.I.S.C. offers a good compensation and benefits package.
We guarantee your continued professional and personal growth

Qualified applicants are requested to submit their curriculum vitaé, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo
on **February 9 to 14, 2004**
to the Human Resource Office, Southville International School and Colleges
1281 Tropical Avenue corner Luxembourg St., BF International, Las Piñas City
Tel. Nos. 820-8702/03 or 825-6374 local 106

The School of Future Leaders and Achievers. Right here. Right now.

A prestigious Chinese Christian school is looking for the following:

TEACHERS

in Filipino, English, Reading, Science, and Physics
- Must have at least a Bachelor's degree in Education (BSE or BSED) or related fields
- With 2 years teaching experience
- Good communication skills in English.

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS
- Must have at least a Bachelor's degree in Guidance Counseling, Psychology or related fields
- With at least 3 years of experience
- Good communication skills in English.

It is preferred that the applicant is a born-again Christian. Send resumé to **Manila Post Office Box #701.**

SWALLOW DERMA PHILS., INC.
is in need of the following:
- **Licensed Pharmacist** – preferably with working experience in a cosmetic firm.
- **Chemist** – preferably with experience in the field of Research and Development.
- **Sales and Marketing Assistant** – preferably with experience, computer literate & hardworking.
- **Accounting Assistant** – accounting graduate, computer literate & hardworking.

Interested applicants should apply in person this **Feb 12 & 13, 2004** (Th/F) 9am-5pm at No. 46-A Delupio Extension, Fortune Village I, Gen. T. de Leon, Valenzuela City or call telephone no. 277-3500 & look for Dads. Bring your comprehensive resumé with 2 pcs. recent 2x2 photo.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN FOR LUZON
3rd Floor, Ombudsman Bldg., Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS
(In compliance with R.A. 7041)

GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I

Item Nos. OMBA-GI01-87-1998; OMBA-GI01-88-1998; OMBA-GI01-89-1998; SG-26; Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: 3 years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR).

Interested applicants should submit on or before February 23, 2004 to the Administrative Division at the above address an application letter stating the position item applied for, duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212); "1x1" picture (colored), Certificate of Eligibility, Transcript of Records, Certificate of Seminar/Training attended (CSC accredited) and Certification from previous/present employment stating the position, actual duties and responsibilities.

Legacies and Treasures Inc.

WANTING TO MIGRATE
(USA, AUSTRALIA, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE)?
But lacking the means to do so?

Can you say yes to the following:
1. Are you willing to spend time and effort to learn a new skill in a direct selling business?
2. Would you like to be a part of an industry that is projected to reach $1.0 Trillion in the next decade?
3. Would you be willing and available to attend a free orientation seminar?

If yes, call Grace 373-5494 between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday for details.
For Provincial queries, please text in the following format: Text your Name + age + profession + location + comment 0917-5232233

Email address: cocosam@uplink.com.ph

ASIAN

ASIAN SECURITY & INVESTIGATION AGENCY, INC.

is in urgent need of

MARKETING OFFICER
- Male, 26-40 years old
- College Graduate
- Background in security services contracts is a must.
- With at least three (3) years work experience.

A five (5) digit compensation will be received by hired applicant.

Interested applicants may personally apply with their comprehensive resume, transcript of records and recent 2x2 picture to:

CENTRAL HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
5th Floor, Dominga Bldg. III
2113 Chino Roces Ave. corner
Dela Rosa St., Makati City
E-mail chrd@mozcom.com

Look for Vinz or Ivy

JOBZ: Employment Expo 2004

Time and again we have proven our commitment to bridge the gap between job seekers and HR practitioners.
We can proudly say that we have pioneered the trend of organizing job fairs.
For years, our Employment Expos have helped thousands achieve their goal.

And in keeping with tradition, we invite you to take part in our 1st Employment Expo for year 2004.
Set to take place on April 27 to 29 at the Glorietta Activity Center, expect us to deliver nothing but the best.
If you want to get quality respondents and hire valuable employees, then JOBZ: Employment Expo is the suitable investment for your company.

For more information, please contact any Inquirer Classified Ads branch:

☐ **EXHIBITOR (Php 35,000)**
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☐ **PARTICIPANT (Php 10,000)**

JOBZ: Resume Central at Onstage

Resume Central- back on its second year to help young minds pave the path to their desired careers for you, our advertisers, to select future employees from a pool of diverse and highly qualified applicants.

On February 23 and 24, 2004, we invite you to join us at Onstage Greenbelt to be one of the many would be participants of this two-day employment fest.

Advertisers, who are interested in placing an ad in the Feb. 22 issue of Job Market, can choose from different packages we offer:

Place a 60 col.cm. ad (minimum size) in the Feb-22 issue of Job Market to enjoy the following.

Place a 120 col.cm. ad (minimum size) in the Feb-22 issue of Job Market to enjoy the following.

JOB Market

FREE Job Market copies for job seekers on the 2-day affair

FREE Posting and exposure to participating companies in our print ads

FREE E-mail box

FREE Pigeon-hole in Job Market resumé collection booth for hard copies of resumé meant for the company

FREE Posting of job vacancies in event venue

AYALA CINEMAS

FREE Distribution of company brochures or leaflets during the event.

FREE Playback of radio plug

FREE Display of one (1) company streamer (1m x 3m)

Plus the other freebies mentioned

MAIN 897-8425 • ATRIUM 892-5578 • CUBAO 912-9011 • SM MEGA 632-0220 • KALAW 528-0213
NANETTE ABAD 897-8425 • CEBU 0927-4651088 / (032)2561954

If you're interested to join our job fairs, kindly fill up this form and fax to any branch near you.

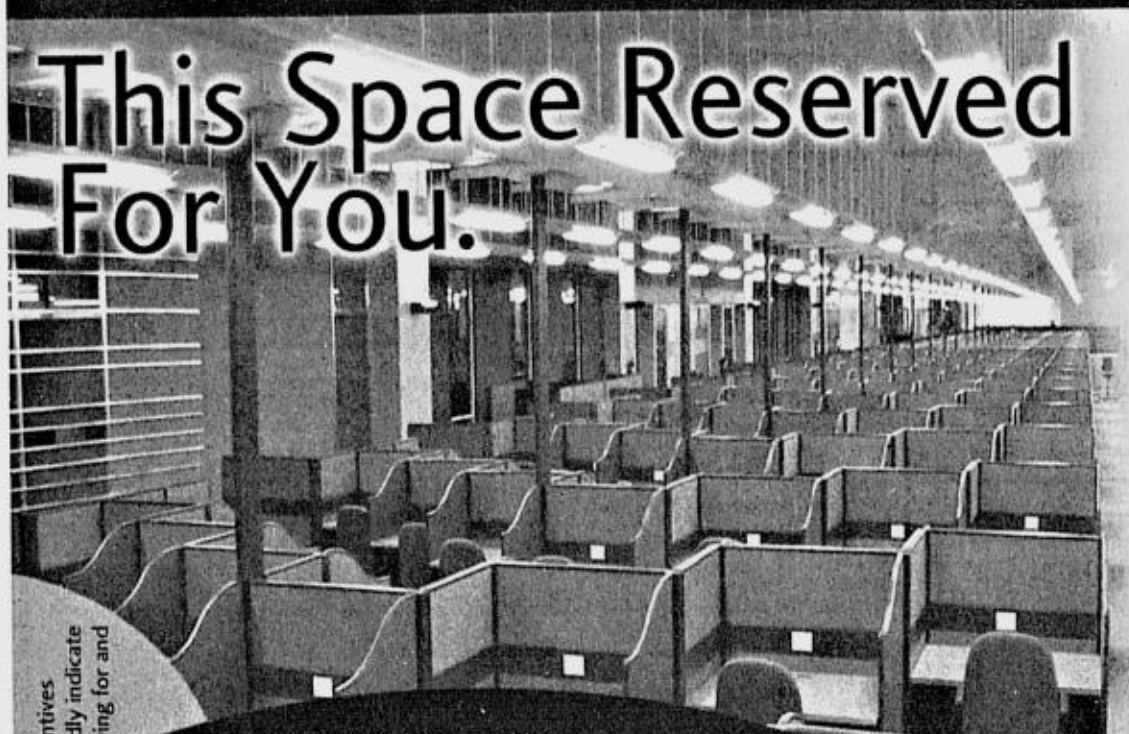
Name: _____
Address: _____
Company _____ Tel. No. _____ Fax. No. _____

TeleTech

Your Customer Management Partner

TeleTech, the leading provider in global customer care solutions for over 20 years is seeking exceptional Call Center Professionals for our Manila Call Center Operations. With global infrastructure support our operations service broad range of North American clients. The depth of the organization offers the right person the potential to learn, develop and advance their career.

Essential requirements for all roles include 4 year College Degree, Exceptional English Conversational skills and a willingness to work night shift.



We offer attractive remuneration and incentives commensurate with your experience. Kindly indicate in the envelope the position you are applying for and send your application to:

MS. VELDA SAULOG - Recruiting Manager
TeleTech Customer Care Management Philippines, Inc.
P.O. Box 1786 MCPO Makati City, Philippines

Or thru the following e-mail addresses:
1. Finance Manager - financemanager@ph.teletech.com
2. Site Director Position- SITEDIRECTOR@ph.teletech.com
3. Senior IT Manager and Network Engineer - it_jobs@ph.teletech.com
4. Operations Manager, Team Leader positions: OPSjobs@ph.teletech.com
5. Trainer Positions and Training Manager - trainerjobs@ph.teletech.com
6. Quality Assurance Specialists and Business Improvement Mgr positions: QA_jobs@ph.teletech.com
7. Workforce Planning Manager: OSCjobs@ph.teletech.com
8. Sr / Client Relationship Manager - CRMjobs@ph.teletech.com

www.teletech.com

SITE DIRECTOR
- Exceptional communication skills
- Ability to manage both external and internal clients
- Outstanding project management capabilities
- Self-driven, with strong attention to details
- Charismatic and dynamic leader
- At least 5 years broad-based business experience or Senior Management Level experience in the service sector and in particular, technology, telecommunications environment
- Excellent organizational skills and able to manage multiple and changing priorities
- Sound financial planning skills a MUST

TRAINERS
- Previous Training experience essential
- Exceptional presentation skills
- Ability to motivate trainees is a must
- Results focused and a desire to help others succeed
- Accent reduction training an advantage

TRAINER - AMERICAN ACCENT AND CULTURE
- Previous Accent Neutralization Training experience essential
- Coaching and mentoring skills
- Exceptional presentation skills
- Ability to motivate trainees is a must
- Results-focused and a desire to help others succeed

TRAINING MANAGER
- Proven leadership experience within a customer-focused training environment
- Ability to manage a number of projects simultaneously
- Exceptional presentation skills
- Coaching and mentoring skills
- At least 3 years management experience

NETWORK (NOC) ENGINEER
- College degree in Computer Engineering, Information Technology, or related field
- Preferably CISCO certified: CCNA/CCNP
- With at least 3 years hands-on experience with Cisco routers and switches in a WAN environment
- With experience with management tools such as HP Openview NNM, Cisco Works and NAI Sniffer
- With at least 3 years experience in handling Microsoft NT/2000, Citrix Metaframe and Unix servers
- Understanding of EIGRP routing protocol
- Proven history of process oriented troubleshooting
- Good documentation skills using Visio preferred
- Excellent customer service and communication skills

OPERATIONS MANAGER
- Outstanding influencing skills
- PRO ACTIVE go-getter
- Able to operate independently and in consultation with senior management
- Outstanding leadership ability
- Extensive experience in coaching, performance management
- Proven ability to achieve organizational goals

TEAM LEADERS
- Must have minimum of one year experience in a Team Leader role
- Exceptional Leadership and coaching skills
- Proven ability to motivate teams

QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALISTS
- Minimum 6 months Call Center experience
- Outstanding attention to detail
- Exceptional Coaching and feedback skills
- Proven listening and Analytical skill

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT MANAGER
- Outstanding process reengineering/business development capabilities
- Exceptional communication skills
- Excellent organizational skills and able to manage multiple and changing priorities
- Exceptional coordination skills and proven ability to work well under pressure
- Sense of urgency a must
- Ability to manage a number of projects simultaneously
- Results oriented and performance driven, with proven ability to "think outside the box"
- Evaluation/Auditing background a must

FINANCE MANAGER
- Certified Public Accountant; B/A or B/S degree in Accounting or Finance or equivalent business related experience.
- With extensive experience in Financial Accounting, Reporting and Control, Budget and Forecast preparation; Financial Statement Analysis; Financial Statement Ration Analysis, preferable gained from a multinational company
- Knowledge of Oracle Financials accounting system; Corporate Tax laws and in handling tax matters.
- Highly analytical, ability to maintain stability and deliver under pressure, results oriented and decisive.
- Has expressive and receptive communication skills.
- Must be able to work with all levels of management and interact effectively with all employees.
- Able to interact with vendors and clients on a regular basis and represent Teletech professionally at all times.

CLIENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGER
- Exceptional communication skills within all levels of client organizations
- Ability to manage both external clients and internal teams
- Outstanding project management capabilities
- Proven experience working with a variety of clients
- Self driven, strong attention to detail
- Minimum 1 year Client Relationship experience
- Sense of Urgency is a must

Sr. CLIENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGER
- Exceptional communication skills within all levels of client organizations
- Ability to manage both external clients and internal teams
- Outstanding project management capabilities
- Proven experience working with a variety of clients
- Self-driven, strong attention to detail
- Sense of urgency is a must
- Minimum 5 years Account management and Client relationship experience
- Charismatic and dynamic leader

WORKFORCE PLANNING MANAGER
- Previous extensive work force planning experience essential
- Analytical and Solutions Focused
- Proven management experience in a Call Center environment. TCS V4, eWFM Series 5/6 or Blue Pumpkin experience an advantage

SENIOR IT MANAGER
- Experience with PC installation, maintenance and configuration
- Familiar with network concepts and hardware (especially CISCO)
- Solid understanding of IT security principles
- MCSE / SA (2000) preferred
- Minimum 5 years IT support experience

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT RE-APPLY

Ad by Adrian Aldaba

IT Outsource, Inc.

Fast Growing Education and IT Services Organization is in search of the following personnel to man new facility at Makati and QC.

Business Development Mgr.
M/F Business Course Graduate, Good Oral and Written English Skills, Highly Computer Literate, Dependable and Able to Work Long Hrs., Work Exp. in Marketing, Corp. Planning and Bus. Operations a Plus!

Chief Accountant
At least 5 years Actg. Exp., Supervisory Post of at least 2 years, Highly Computer Literate, Must Have Good Coordination & Communication Skills, Must be Willing to Work Long Hours, Must be a CPA.

HR Manager/Supervisor
Graduate of Psychology, Sociology, or HR Management, Pref. with Masters Degree, At least 3 Yrs., Exp. in (Pref.)Technical HR Mgt. in Recruitment, Training, Compensation, Benefits, Labor Relations

Graphic Artist / Web Designer
Degree in ComSci. or IT, at Least 2 Years Exp. in Graphics and Web, Excellent Eye for Proper Layout and Design, Expertise in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Macromedia Flash, and Dreamweaver a Must

Competitive Compensation Package awaits qualifed applicants

jobs@itoservices.com (NO ATTACHMENTS!) Call 892-3320 / 892-3371 or Send Resume to 2rd Fl, 2283 Pasong Tamo Ext., Mkti. City - MEL

IC Learning Systems, Inc.

Training and Dev. Administrator
At least 3 Yrs. Exp. in Training Program Admin. & Instructor Mgt. Graduate in Educ. Mgt. or Masteral of Arts in Education Mgt. Curriculum Dev. Exp. a Plus, Computer Literate and Personable

Competitive Compensation Package awaits qualifed applicants

icls@itoservices.com (NO ATTACHMENTS!) Call 726-4391/94 - RYAN or send Resume to 4th Flr., MJG Bldg., Aurora Cor. Balete Drive, QC.

AIRLINE BUSINESS INDUSTRY

An expanding ground-handling firm engaged in the Airline Business Industry has excellent career prospect for the position of:

MANDARIN-CANTONESE INTERPRETER
CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS
(Passenger Services)

Requirements:
- Male or female, 20 to 30 years old.
- At least 5'3 in height.
- College Graduate.
- Service-oriented and willing to learn new skills.
- Good Moral Character and presentable in appearance.
- Good command of English both oral and written.
- MANDARIN AND CANTONESE SPEAKING.
- Smart and Enthusiastic.
- With high sense of responsibility.
- Willing to work on shift schedule, weekends and holidays.
- Computer literate.
- With general salesmanship ability.
- Experience is an advantage.

Please send your resumé with telephone number and ID picture to:

P.O. BOX 7764
Domestic Airport Post Office
Domestic Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila

A GARMENT EXPORTING COMPANY
MANUFACTURER OF ESTABLISHED BRAND NAMES

NEEDS

MERCHANDISER
- Male or Female, not more than 40 years old
- 2-3 years experience in the same position
- Broad experience in Garment exporting
- Effective communication skills, both in oral and written English

ACCOUNTING MANAGER
- Male or Female
- 3-5 years experience, at least 3 years in managerial level
- Extensive knowledge of and experience in general accounting and cost accounting for a garment company.
- Effective communication skills, both in oral and written English
- Hardworking and willing to work extended hours

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- Female, 18-35 years of age
- Preferably graduate of Foreign Service or any related course
- With pleasing personality and speaks fluent English language

PURCHASING OFFICER
- Male/Female, 25-35 years of age
- Engineering Graduate
- With pleasing personality and can speak Chinese/Mandarin language
- One (1) year experience in the same field of work

Interested applicants may send or bring their resumé with recent photo and transcript of records to:

ARTIF & CO. PHIL. INC.
Brgy. Poblacion, Noveleta, Cavite
Tel. # (046) 438-7247 to 48
c/o HRD Department

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

CHEMICAL ENGINEER
CIVIL ENGINEER
ARCHITECT
- Male, not more than 35 years old
- Applicants must be licensed, physically & mentally fit to work
- Civil Engr. with architectural background, at least 3-5 years experience in land development & general construction
- With good scholastic record from a reputable school
- Knows how to drive

AUTO MECHANIC
- Male, not more than 35 years old
- 5 years experience in diezel & gasoline engines
- Capable of diagnosing fault of the vehicles
- Knowledge in auto electrical & car aircon
- Physically & mentally fit to work

Bring resumé with picture & transcript of record to:
5/Flr. **Bloomingdale** Bldg.
#205 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Look for Mr. R. David / Mr. R. Buatis / Mr. A. Corpus

RESONANTPOWER
INCORPORATED

ENGINEER • DESIGNER • CONSULTANT • CONTRACTOR
890 Samat Street Mandaluyong City, Philippines 1501
Tel. No. 535-8011, 535-0776, 578-0332

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
a. Minimum of 2-3 years experience in Construction and Industrial Work
b. Male 25 years of age and above
c. Can communicate in English well & computer literate. (CADD & MS OFFICE)

SALES ENGINEER
a. Electrical Eng'r Graduate
b. Female with pleasing personality
c. BSEE Graduate, 21-24 years old
d. Can communicate in Engineering Terminology
e. Computer literate (Excel & MS Office)

CADD OPERATOR
a. Female BSEE Graduate
b. Experience is required on preparation of Electrical Drawings
c. Must know CADD 2000 & 2002

ELECTRICIANS
a. Can read & interpret schematic diagram
b. Minimum experience of 2 years in commercial & industrial installation

Apply at RESONANTPOWER, INC. at 890 Samat St., Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 534-5816 to 17

JOB OPENING

Market Research Project Assistant
- College graduate (Statistics, Communication Research, Business Administration, Psychology or other related field), single female, between 22-28 years of age
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Can converse in English and draft simple correspondence

Field Researchers/Interviewers
- With or without experience in field interviews in market research
- At least 2 years in College; fluent in Chinese is an added advantage

Accounting Clerks
- Female, 20-25 years old; College graduate from reputable schools; computer literate

Company Driver
- Male, 28-35 years old; At least 2 years experience
- With NBI clearance

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- Exceptional communication skills
- Ability to manage both external and internal clients
- Outstanding project management capabilities
- Self-driven, with strong attention to details
- Charismatic and dynamic leader
- At least 5 years broad-based business experience or Senior Management Level experience in the service sector and in particular, technology, telecommunications environment
- Excellent organizational skills and able to manage multiple and changing priorities
- Sound financial planning skills a MUST

TRAINERS
- Previous Training experience essential
- Exceptional presentation skills
- Ability to motivate trainees is a must
- Results focused and a desire to help others succeed
- Accent reduction training an advantage

TRAINER - AMERICAN ACCENT AND CULTURE
- Previous Accent Neutralization Training experience essential
- Coaching and mentoring skills
- Exceptional presentation skills
- Ability to motivate trainees is a must
- Results-focused and a desire to help others succeed

TRAINING MANAGER
- Proven leadership experience within a customer-focused training environment
- Ability to manage a number of projects simultaneously
- Exceptional presentation skills
- Coaching and mentoring skills
- At least 3 years management experience

NETWORK (NOC) ENGINEER
- College degree in Computer Engineering, Information Technology, or related field
- Preferably CISCO certified: CCNA/CCNP
- With at least 3 years hands-on experience with Cisco routers and switches in a WAN environment
- With experience with management tools such as HP Openview NNM, Cisco Works and NAI Sniffer
- With at least 3 years experience in handling Microsoft NT/2000, Citrix Metaframe and Unix servers
- Understanding of EIGRP routing protocol
- Proven history of process oriented troubleshooting
- Good documentation skills using Visio preferred
- Excellent customer service and communication skills

OPERATIONS MANAGER
- Outstanding influencing skills
- PRO ACTIVE go-getter
- Able to operate independently and in consultation with senior management
- Outstanding leadership ability
- Extensive experience in coaching, performance management
- Proven ability to achieve organizational goals

TEAM LEADERS
- Must have minimum of one year experience in a Team Leader role
- Exceptional Leadership and coaching skills
- Proven ability to motivate teams

QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALISTS
- Minimum 6 months Call Center experience
- Outstanding attention to detail
- Exceptional Coaching and feedback skills
- Proven listening and Analytical skill

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT MANAGER
- Outstanding process reengineering/business development capabilities
- Exceptional communication skills
- Excellent organizational skills and able to manage multiple and changing priorities
- Exceptional coordination skills and proven ability to work well under pressure
- Sense of urgency a must
- Ability to manage a number of projects simultaneously
- Results oriented and performance driven, with proven ability to "think outside the box"
- Evaluation/Auditing background a must

FINANCE MANAGER
- Certified Public Accountant; B/A or B/S degree in Accounting or Finance or equivalent business related experience.
- With extensive experience in Financial Accounting, Reporting and Control, Budget and Forecast preparation; Financial Statement Analysis; Financial Statement Ration Analysis, preferable gained from a multinational company
- Knowledge of Oracle Financials accounting system; Corporate Tax laws and in handling tax matters.
- Highly analytical, ability to maintain stability and deliver under pressure, results oriented and decisive.
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- Must be able to work with all levels of management and interact effectively with all employees.
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- Exceptional communication skills within all levels of client organizations
- Ability to manage both external clients and internal teams
- Outstanding project management capabilities
- Proven experience working with a variety of clients
- Self driven, strong attention to detail
- Minimum 1 year Client Relationship experience
- Sense of Urgency is a must

Sr. CLIENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGER
- Exceptional communication skills within all levels of client organizations
- Ability to manage both external clients and internal teams
- Outstanding project management capabilities
- Proven experience working with a variety of clients
- Self-driven, strong attention to detail
- Sense of urgency is a must
- Minimum 5 years Account management and Client relationship experience
- Charismatic and dynamic leader

WORKFORCE PLANNING MANAGER
- Previous extensive work force planning experience essential
- Analytical and Solutions Focused
- Proven management experience in a Call Center environment - TCS V4, eWFM Series 5/6 or Blue Pumpkin experience an advantage

SENIOR IT MANAGER
- Experience with PC installation, maintenance and configuration
- Familiar with network concepts and hardware (especially CISCO)
- Solid understanding of IT security principles
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- Minimum 5 years IT support experience

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- Broad experience in Garment exporting
- Effective communication skills, both in oral and written English

ACCOUNTING MANAGER
- Male or Female
- 3-5 years experience, at least 3 years in managerial level
- Extensive knowledge of and experience in general accounting and cost accounting for a garment company.
- Effective communication skills, both in oral and written English
- Hardworking and willing to work extended hours

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- Female, 18-35 years of age
- Preferably graduate of Foreign Service or any related course
- With pleasing personality and speaks fluent English language

PURCHASING OFFICER
- Male/Female, 25-35 years of age
- Engineering Graduate
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- With good scholastic record from a reputable school
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a. Minimum of 2-3 years experience in Construction and Industrial Work
b. Male 25 years of age and above
c. Can communicate in English well & computer literate. (CADD & MS OFFICE)

SALES ENGINEER
a. Electrical Engr. Graduate
b. Female with pleasing personality
c. BSEE Graduate, 21-24 years old
d. Can communicate in Engineering Terminology
e. Computer literate (Excel & MS Office)

CADD OPERATOR
a. Female BSEE Graduate
b. Experience is required on preparation of Electrical Drawings
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  Centralinks, FEX Service, SRN (Subscriber Requested Numbers), Corporate Hype

- ***Value-Added Services*** *– VNS (Virtual Network Service), Enhanced Audio Conferencing, Videocon Services, TV Services, @ctiveBill (Internet Bills Presentment & Payment), Plug 'N Work (SME Bundled Services)*

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  Local Services - Direct Line, Regular Trunk Line, CPE (Customer Premise Equipment – PABX/KTS), Special Features (Caller ID, call waiting, 3-party conference, speed calling)
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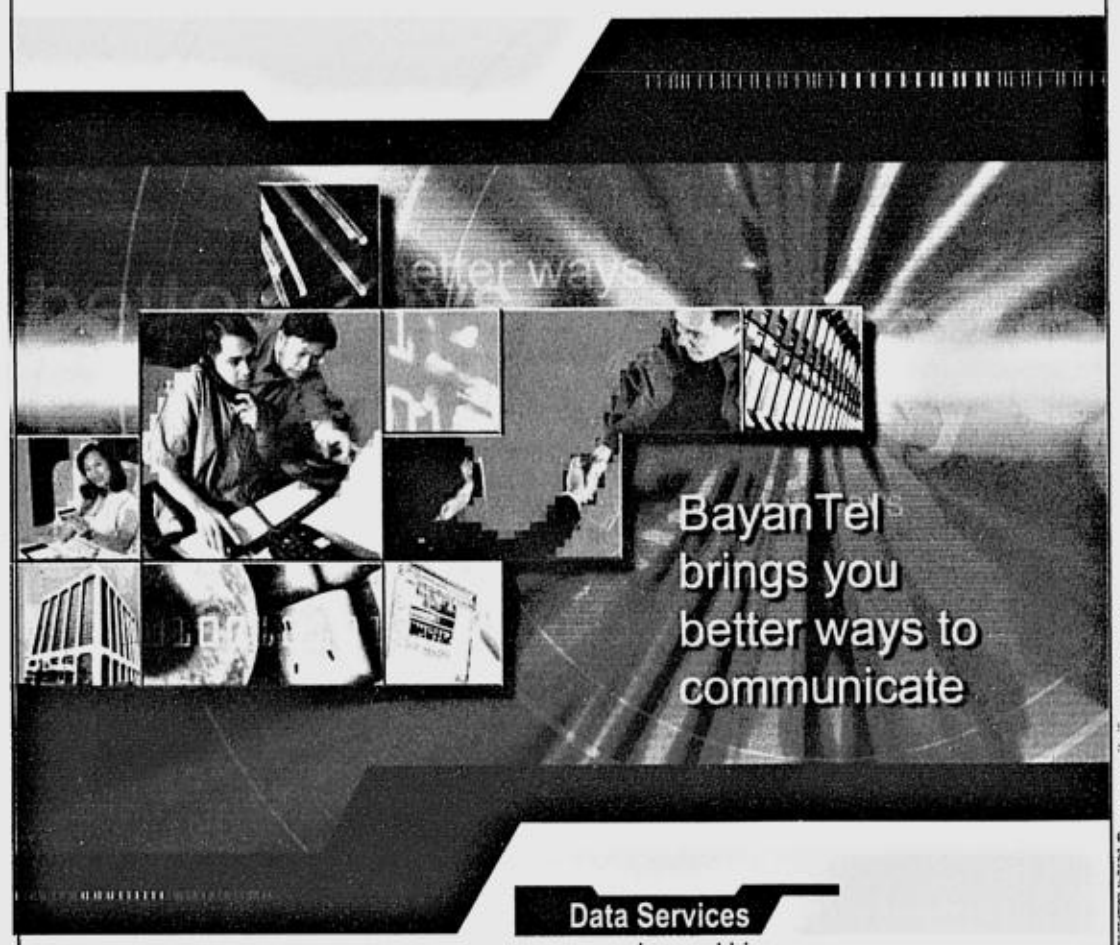

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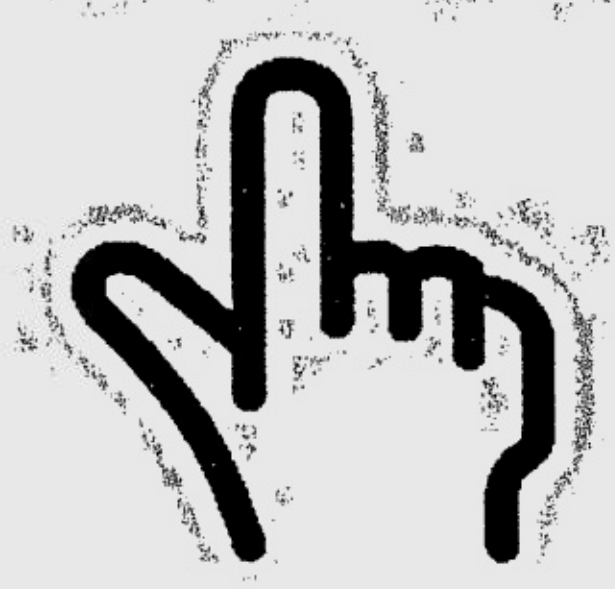

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2004

Volume 1

Pacific Internet

E-VOLVE THROUGH TIME

Pacific Internet Celebrates 8 Years

by Jojie Yap, President

Pacific Internet Philippines has reached another milestone in its career as it celebrated 8 years of providing Internet access to Filipinos nationwide, last Feb. 6. The past eight years witnessed the challenges and struggles the company faced as it endeavored to keep apace with the industry's aggressive trend.

Staying true to our vision to provide quality Internet access – promising reliability and dependability – to every Filipino individual, household and corporation gave the company the strength to keep on when the going got tough. It served as an inspiration to never give up. Wanting to be true to our vision and mission, Pacific Internet proved its resilience by adapting to the changes taking place in the industry without compromising our values and service quality commitment to subscribers and partners.

The last eight years likewise saw the emergence of two noticeable divisions in the industry: those that have taken the easy road out and those that struggled to keep afloat taking every possible step to overcome obstacles. Pacific Internet was one of those who didn't bail out when the seas became a little rough. Out of numerous ISP's that sprouted like mushrooms when the Internet boom began, very few of us remained standing. One by one, I saw my colleagues in the business go down and this was a very sad realization to all of us in the industry – that we're not invincible. But we kept at it, we had to bite the bullet or go down like the rest. Sure, it seemed like a hit-and-miss kind of deal at times but by divine providence and not a little luck, we had more hits than misses. It would not be completely true if I were to say that everything was smooth sailing all the time. In fact there were quite a few times in the recent past when we had so few sign ups we were actually in the red.

But thanks to a hardworking and competent team, we have emerged as one of the most profitable companies in the industry. Over the years, the Pacific Internet Group has grown as the largest telco - independent Internet Communications Service provider by geographic reach, with direct presence in seven countries, plus three more in the offing -- Vietnam ,Indonesia and China. We have a comprehensive suite of Internet communications services, a significant regional customer base and a customer - centric and technology - oriented workforce. Competition is always good because it makes us aware of areas we need to improve on and it helps us focus on the things we need to do to better serve our subscribers and partners. It is motivates us to strive to be the best all the time and to always keep an open mind so we can absorb and observe the needs of our market.

To my Pacific Internet family, congratulations, keep up the good work and I'm proud of you!

THE PHILIPPINES' INTERNET DEPOT

Being one of the pioneer ISPs in the country, Pacific Internet has gained the experience and has developed the expertise to provide the best business solutions to companies that cater to their specific needs, from household PC to global connectivity. This enables the companies to fully utilize their resources and maximize their potential for growth.

Going beyond Internet connectivity, Pacific Internet has evolved from simply offering ISP services to cost effective total Internet solution under one roof. Tailor-fitted and customized, these ensure high – quality service for the company, increasing possibilities to augment their revenues. Covering a wide range of products and services, the company has positioned itself in the industry as the choice provider for corporations, small and medium businesses, professionals, households and individuals. Value-added services such as IP-VPN, Video-Conferencing, Voice over IP, Web hosting are only some of the services clients get when they partner with Pacific Internet. High-speed and top-quality connection through Pacific Internet Leased Line, Pacific Internet DSL, MUB and DDU among others offered at competitive prices ensure that your Internet connection is always ready for your use, at any given time.

- ***IP - VPN.*** This enables companies to securely connect their regional offices through Pacific Internet's regional backbone as an alternative to International Private Leased circuits.
- ***Video-Conferencing.*** Pacific Internet brings the world of video conferencing over the Internet to valued clients and their business associates, customers and colleagues. The previously complicated process of conducting a video - conference is simplified through Pacific Internet's Video – Conferencing.
- ***Voice over IP.*** Otherwise known as Internet Telephony, this type of service makes voice calls more cost-effective because there are no long distances charges. This is ideal for SME's, and multi-national corporations where Pacific Internet operates.

(Turn to next page)

Message from Singapore

"It is my pleasure to celebrate with our Philippine office on their 8th birthday. Philippines was one of our earlier investments outside Singapore back in 1997 and it is a key contributor to the Pacific Internet Group today. While the Group has since expanded to four other points - of - presence in Asia (Australia, India, Thailand and Malaysia) on top of Singapore, Hong Kong and the Philippines, we are happy to note that our Philippine operations have also grown and expanded its coverage to seven cities - Metro Manila, Cebu, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas and Davao. We have indeed grown together and I look forward to greater growth with my Philippine team. Happy Birthday!"

-Tan Tong Hai
CEO & President
Pacific Internet Ltd.

Pacnet - From Humble Beginnings to a Top 1000 Corporation...

Jojie Yap admits that when she and her husband, former Quezon City Rep. Renato Yap, and another partner put up Primeworld Digital Systems, Inc., they had no clue on the obstacles they were to face.

All they knew was that there were risks involved – as in any endeavor – and that since Internet connectivity was hardly heard of in those days, it was a good idea to pioneer in it because other than holding much promise, it was a good venue to help the Philippines enter into the computer age and be at par with other countries.

FriGarcia Tower, Kalayaan Avenue

To further strengthen the company's foundation, Primeworld Digital Systems, Inc. forged a partnership with Singapore's largest Internet Service Provider, Pacific Internet Limited.

They first held office at a unit in one of the buildings along Kalayaan Avenue in Quezon City. Ms. Yap did most of the client calls herself and totally immersed herself in the business. Of course, she had to learn the hard way. She learned everything there is to know about her "baby," from the technical side to customer service to sales and marketing. Having a post - graduate degree in International and Development Economics from Yale University and having worked in the fast-paced environment of Citibank Manila helped her in her business decision-making. Having been once an employee herself likewise helped her in forging good working relationships with her staff.

Jun Valdez, Business Solutions Manager

People who have been with the company since its birth amusedly recall how so much different it was then. Jun Valdez, Business Solutions Manager, was employee No. 2. He recalls how cramped their space was. He remembers that the computer room then was just as big as his office now. Rightly so, he is proud of what the company has achieved, considering the difficulties it had to go through to reach the success the company enjoys now. He recalls how they would celebrate practically every time they had just a single sign – up for the day. Quite a long shot from the high numbers they sign – up each day today. He also remembers how difficult it was to sneak in when he comes in late because as the office was so small, everyone was aware of the others' whereabouts all the time, especially the Boss.

The Taipan Place Ortigas Center

From their simple quarters in Kalayaan, the company moved to a much bigger place and to one of the newer high-rise buildings in Ortigas Center. Anne Aya-ay, now Consumer Postpaid Brand Manager, recalls that when she joined the company, their office in Taipan Place wasn't finished yet so they had to use old carton boxes as tables, and Gerard Milan, Corporate Sales Manager, likewise recalls that during that time he had to sit on a pile of old newspapers. Some employees even wore gas masks to work to quell the smell of paint.

Now 8 years later, the company is housed in the premium business district of Ortigas Center. The Network Operations and data center are located in its own facilities in Quezon City. It has opened Points - of - Presence (POPs) and Shops in Batangas, Laguna, Bulacan, Cavite, Cebu and Davao as well as shops in SM Malls. Other expansion areas are being worked at. Quite a long shot from its one-sign-up-per-day beginnings. From a handful of employees, the company now employs more than 200 employees and continuously hires experienced personnel to maintain its high quality of service and commitment to its subscribers and clients.

Pacific Internet started from scratch, where the only things that kept it going were the faith, perseverance, determination and hard work of the people behind it. Now, it remains to be the biggest telco-neutral and only multi-national ISP in the country, boasting of regional presence across Asia. It has gained market leadership, covering all sectors, from individual postpaid and prepaid consumers to small business and large corporate and government clients.

From its humble beginnings, and after a long and sometimes tumultuous journey, Pacific Internet emerged as one of the top corporations in the industry.

... And We're Still Growing - FAST

Recognizing the rising need for Internet access across the nation, Pacific Internet immediately addressed this concern by taking steps to ensure that its products and services are readily available especially in areas outside Metro Manila. Jojie Yap says: *"Pacific Internet's mission is to extend its service to key areas in the country. We want the Internet to be available for everyone, so much so that we not only try to address the price segment of Internet access but also its lack of availability in some areas, especially in the provinces."*

Apart from sustaining a strong presence in Metro Manila, by the end of 2003 Pacific Internet has rolled out its products and services to Baguio, Cebu, Davao, Bulacan, Laguna, Cavite and Batangas. Soon to follow are Bacolod, Iloilo, Dumaguete, Cagayan De Oro City and Pampanga. Mr. Sonny Divina, VP for Sales and Marketing of the company likewise mentioned that *"the company's premium – quality services were introduced to more key areas in the country to help speed up economic activity in the provinces. A major component of our expansion program is making Internet access within reach of anyone through our prepaid card Pacific Internet E-VOLVE."* Currently, Pacific Internet E-VOLVE is the preferred quality prepaid card, most especially in the provinces.

Just as the Internet bridges the distance from different points in the world, so does Pacific Internet bridge the gap between different points in the Philippines by providing the country with one of the best tools for communication today.

BEHIND THE SCENES:
PACNET'S PEOPLE POWER

As in any organization, its success or failure largely depends on the people behind it. Pacific Internet believes that their workforce is their greatest asset. People who have been with the company from its inception and those who came in thereafter are those who have contributed to the success of the company.

And for this reason alone, Pacific Internet is committed to the holistic development of their people to enhance their talents and allow them to reach their full potential. For 2004, Pacnet - Ph will invest in development programs and conduct trainings and more effective performance appraisals to guarantee that everyone is performing at peak level.

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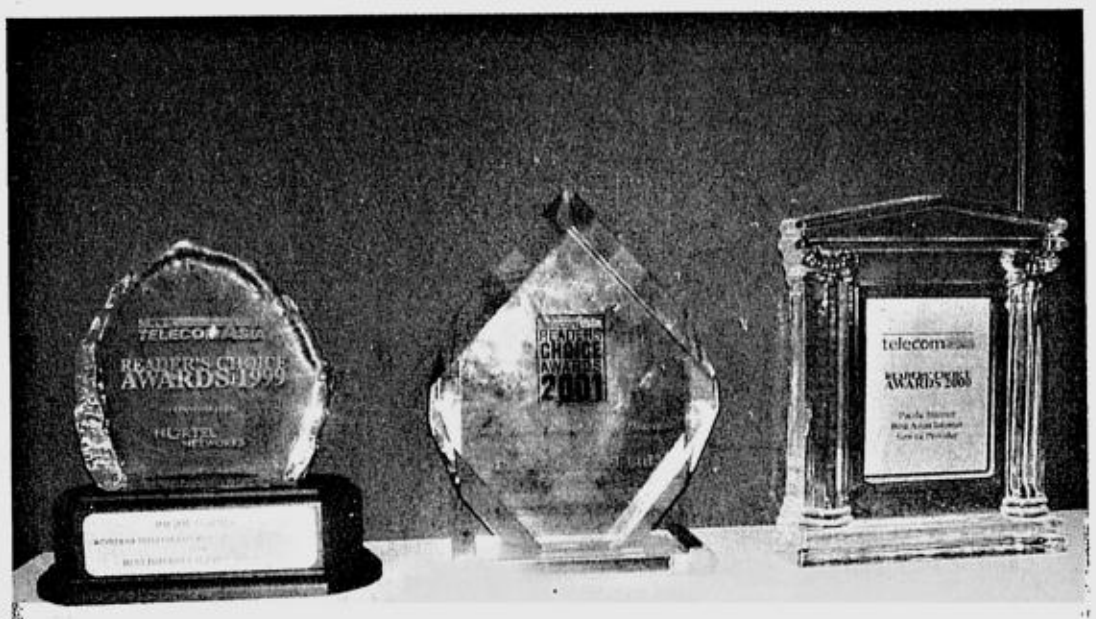

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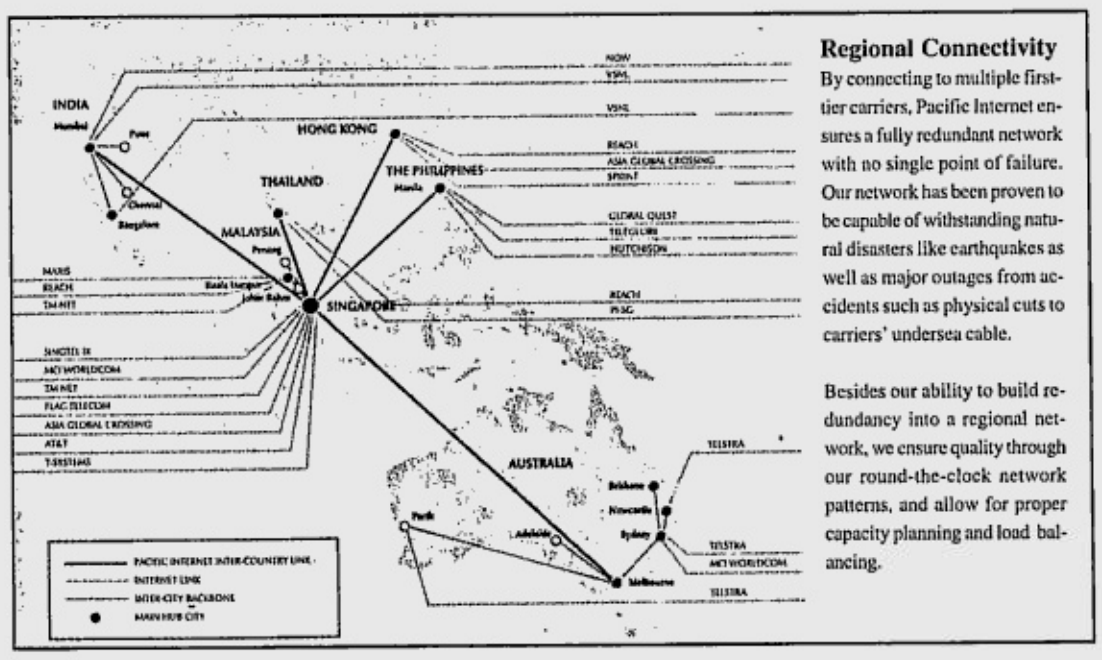

Regional Connectivity

By connecting to multiple first-tier carriers, Pacific Internet ensures a fully redundant network with no single point of failure. Our network has been proven to be capable of withstanding natural disasters like earthquakes as well as major outages from accidents such as physical cuts to carriers' undersea cable.

Besides our ability to build redundancy into a regional network, we ensure quality through our round-the-clock network patterns, and allow for proper capacity planning and load balancing.

...PACNET -RP'S INTERNET DEPOT

(continued from previous page)

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Pacific Internet
Contact Information

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Tel. 637-1700 Fax: 637-0600

SM Megamall
5th Level, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
Tel: 635-3614 Fax: 635-3607

SM City North Edsa
G/F Car Park Plaza, SM City North EDSA, North Ave. cor EDSA, Quezon City
Tel. 929-5033 Fax: 929-5082

Cebu
3/F First Abacus Financial Center, Cardinal Rosales Ave. cor. Samar Loop, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
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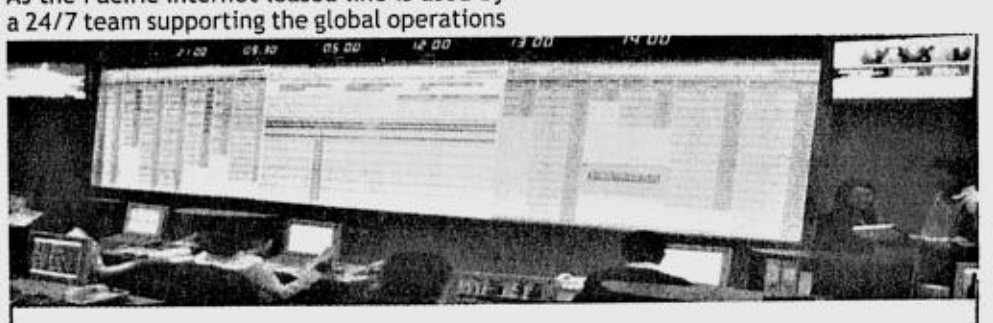

Pacific Internet Regional Network

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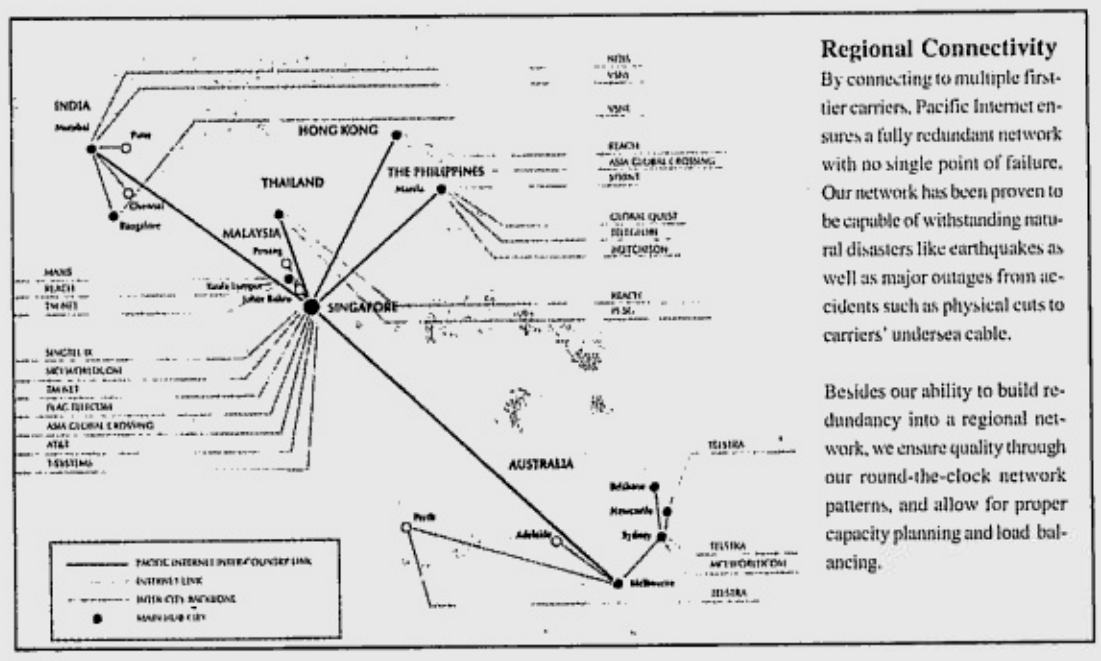

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(continued from previous page)

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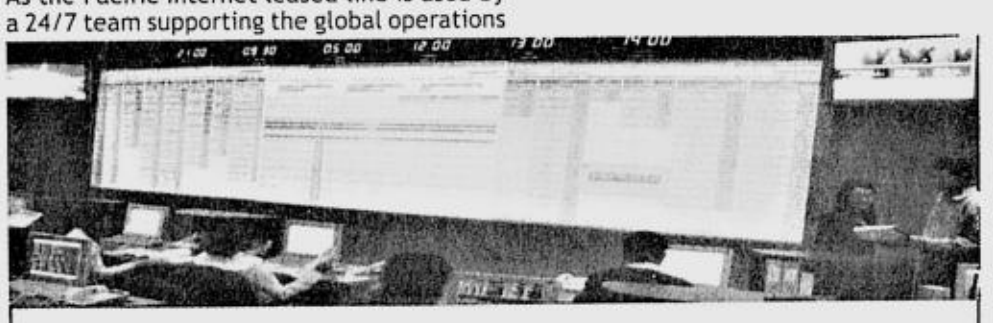

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Text by Lia Vicedo • Layout by Lara Pundol

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Pacific Internet *Surf Maxx*:

BEST GIFT FOR YOUR CHILD

Have you ever envied parents of children who excel in school while your own are left behind? Well, worry no more because Pacific Internet has just the right tool to enhance your child's mental skills. No, we're not talking about tutoring services or brain enhancers, ours is a simple tool that guarantees your child's progress in school. The good part about it is that you won't have to spend much to help your child. In fact, it won't even dent your budget. So what's this affordable and yet priceless tool? We're giving you the Net. Before you turn the page and think this is nonsense, let us tell you about the numerous benefits of the Internet.

Firstly, the Internet holds in its hands a whole world of information. Imagine the National Library plus the Smithsonian Museum in Washington D.C. plus all the libraries in the world all squeezed into one of the world's greatest inventions...the Internet. Sure, libraries are great after all they got most of us through school. But it was tedious going through every book just to finish term papers on time. After so much scanning and reading, most of us went home with migraines.

Imagine how so much easier it would be for your child to simply sit back, surf the Net at home - where you feel they're much safer in anyway - with no worries about photocopying every page read, going home late at night or rushing because in an hour the library would close!

Secondly, your child's work would be cut in half. He'll have more time to do some other stuff he enjoys doing and he'd be ahead in his class because other than finishing assignments and reports on time, he'll have an edge on learning about the latest techniques in Math or the latest scientific discovery because most often, before they get published in papers or be included in volumes and volumes of Encyclopedia, the Net already has this information.

You're probably telling yourself, "Sure, it's a good tool but can I afford it?" As mentioned, it won't even dent your budget. Spending for it is like foregoing one taxi ride or missing one trip to the parlor. It's that cheap you'd think there's a catch - but there's none. Pacific Internet SURF MAXX was developed especially for students who want to get ahead in class and for parents of these students who always want what's best for their children. For only P100.00 your child gets 25 hours! of surfing time...by far the longest surfing hour of any prepaid Internet card today. If you still feel that it's not affordable, that's okay because we also have the Pacific Internet SURF MAXX P50.00, for 11 surfing hours! Not bad, right?

So now, with SURF MAXX as your partner in enhancing your child's mental skills, you are assured that they will do well in school and you're worry days are over. After all, Maxx believes that education is your best tool when you go out into the "real" world. Surf Maxx is the best education tool you can give your child without over - spending.

Pacific Internet SURF MAXX is available at all Shoe Mart branches, National Book Store, 7-Eleven, Shell Select, Caltex Starmart, Seaoil, Total, Filbars, Zagu outlets, Emilene's Pharmacy, Expressions, computer shops like Electroworld, TCA, Informate, Greatlakes, Complink, Accent Micro, Dynamic Ultra, PC Like, PC Chain, Voice Stream, Cards on Tracks and CK Cellular. Other partnerships with leading retail shops are also being worked at. For more information, you may call 918 0333 and 918 0356. Dealers are welcome to apply.

Globe QUEST and Pacific Internet

Partners in providing Internet connectivity

GlobeQUEST congratulates Pacific Internet for 8 great years.

GlobeQUEST is the corporate brand of innove COMMUNICATIONS

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sunday INQUIRER magazine
February 8, 2004

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

Politics According to Pilar

She says she's running for senator because she has a mission from God. Far from defending her colorful past, this former actress-turned-missionary and pastor's wife believes that her previous experiences can only be instructive to others

By Pennie Azarcon Dela Cruz
Photograph by Ernie U. Sarmiento

HE STILL acts and looks every inch the beauty queen she was back in '67. In a flowing purple sheath, Pilar Pilapil holds court in a curtained-off make-up room of an Eastwood salon, having postponed the pictorial to wait for her favorite make-up artist who had gone out of town during the original sked. Projecting the glamour that has seen her through a flourishing TV and movie career, she becomes yet another proof that showbiz and politics make for strange and, in these star-struck isles, inevitable bedfellows. Factor in religion, and you know you're in the midst of campaign season in this, the only Christian country in the Far East.

"My being an actress has nothing to do with my decision to run," says this senatorial candidate under Eddie Gil's Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa party. "I could have done it at the peak of my career when more people knew me, but today is God's time. I am running because I have a mission from God." That mission, she says, is "to go to the grassroots and address all the problems we are encountering in this country."

It took her a long time to decide this, she says, "although I've often been told since I was in my thirties that I have the personality to be a leader." In fact, according to reports, the Kugi Uswag Sugbo (help Cebu prosper) party in Cebu was considering her as its candidate for councilor, while Pilar herself admits that she could have run as vice-mayor, "but that is not my calling."

Her calling she discerned after several "revelations from God" and a reading of Isaiah 42. "I am God's servant, here to do His bidding," she quotes.

As a low-profile missionary in Cebu for the past eight years, Pilar's decision came as a surprise to family and friends, such that she had to explain through a monthly newsletter which she says she publishes "to update my relatives on the goings-on in my life."

To page 2

Hair and make-up: Jerome Chang
Venue: Salon Studio, Eastwood Libis, QC

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sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
February 8, 2004

Politic According to Pilar

By Pennie Azarcon Dela Cruz
Photograph by Ernie U. Sarmiento

HE STILL acts and looks every inch the beauty queen she was back in '67. In a flowing purple sheath, Pilar Pilapil holds court in a curtained-off make-up room of an Eastwood salon, having postponed the pictorial to wait for her favorite make-up artist who had gone out of town during the original sked. Projecting the glamour that has seen her through a flourishing TV and movie career, she becomes yet another proof that showbiz and politics make for strange and, in these star-struck isles, inevitable bedfellows. Factor in religion, and you know you're in the midst of campaign season in this, the only Christian country in the Far East.

"My being an actress has nothing to do with my decision to run," says this senatorial candidate under Eddie Gil's Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa party. "I could have done it at the peak of my career when more people knew me, but today is God's time. I am running because I have a mission from God." That mission, she says, is "to go to the grassroots and address all the problems we are encountering in this country."

It took her a long time to decide this, she says, "although I've often been told since I was in my thirties that I have the personality to be a leader." In fact, according to reports, the Kugi Uswag Sugbo (help Cebu prosper) party in Cebu was considering her as its candidate for councilor, while Pilar herself admits that she could have run as vice-mayor, "but that is not my calling."

Her calling she discerned after several "revelations from God" and a reading of Isaiah 42. "I am God's servant, here to do His bidding," she quotes.

As a low-profile missionary in Cebu for the past eight years, Pilar's decision came as a surprise to family and friends, such that she had to explain it through a monthly newsletter which she says she publishes "to update my relatives on the goings-on-in-my life."

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Far from defending her previous past, former actress-turned-missionary Pilar Pilapil believes that her previous experiences can only be instructive to others

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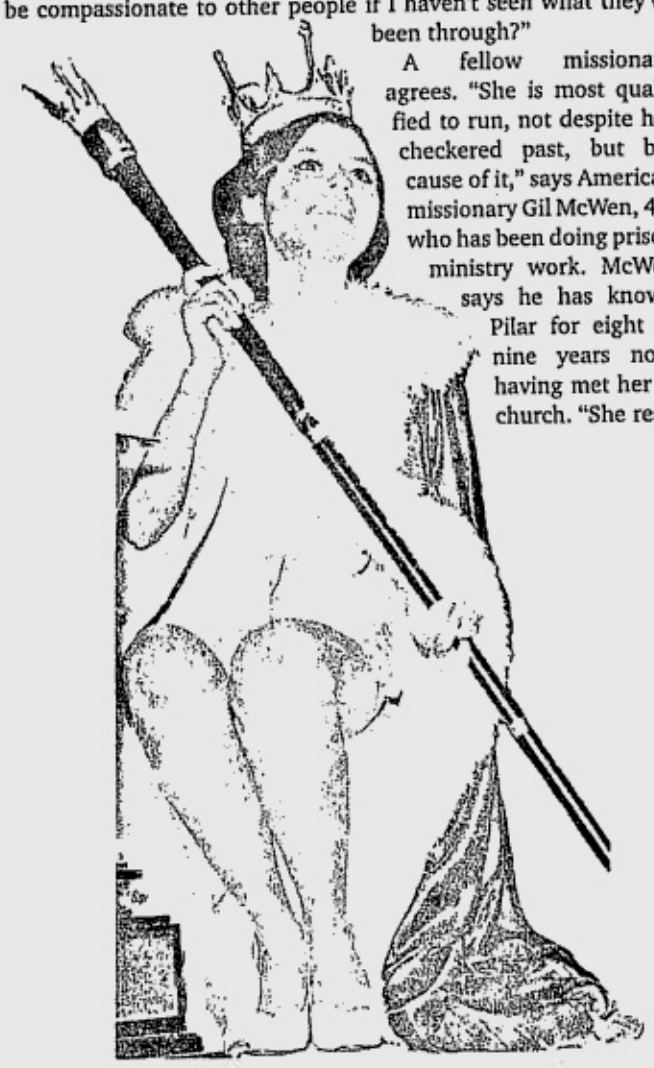
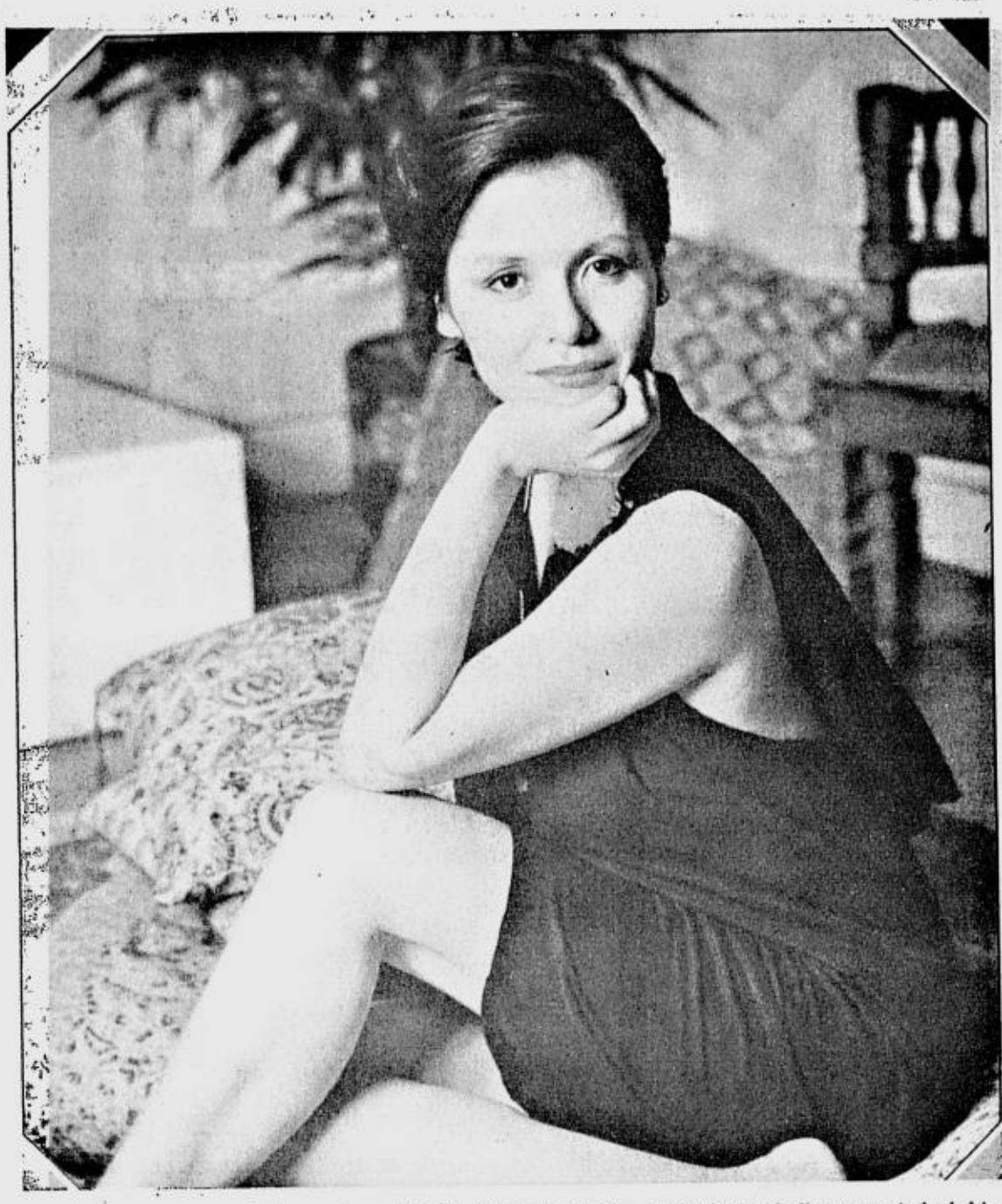
Critics are also wont to bring up her colorful past to question her credibility. A very attractive woman, Pilar has been linked to several prominent personalities, among them top comedian Dolphy and the late former Vice President Salvador "Doy" Laurel, with whom she has a grown-up daughter, TV personality Pia Laurel. In fact, for sometime in the '70s, the rumor mills have ground out nasty tales about this "unnamed" actress allegedly dying of a sexually-transmitted disease because of her indiscretions.

Pilar is not about to explain nor apologize for her past. "In my twenties and thirties, I led a fast life. But if I have to go through all that again..." she muses. "How can I be compassionate to other people if I haven't seen what they've been through?"





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It seems her first marriage was as fickle. In October 1986, Pilar married Spanish journalist Michael Ponti in quite memorable circumstances. Reports have it that the multi-awarded actress fainted during the ceremonies, and that guests TV host Elvira Manahan and FPJ (yes, that FPJ) rushed to her aid. "I was so excited I skipped my meals," she says of the incident. That collapse might have been prophetic: The marriage lasted only a year.

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But I miss the bark
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Sa bawat katawang pumapasok
Sa aking katawan, nadadagdagan
Akong hindi ko namamalayan.
Mamamanhid ang aking kabuuan,
Unti-unti akong mababanat
Habang nauulinigan ang mga usapan:
Tapik ng kamay sa balikat
Ng kalbigang walang mapasukan,
Hinaing ng inang walang malhatid
Na salapi sa nag-aaral na anak,
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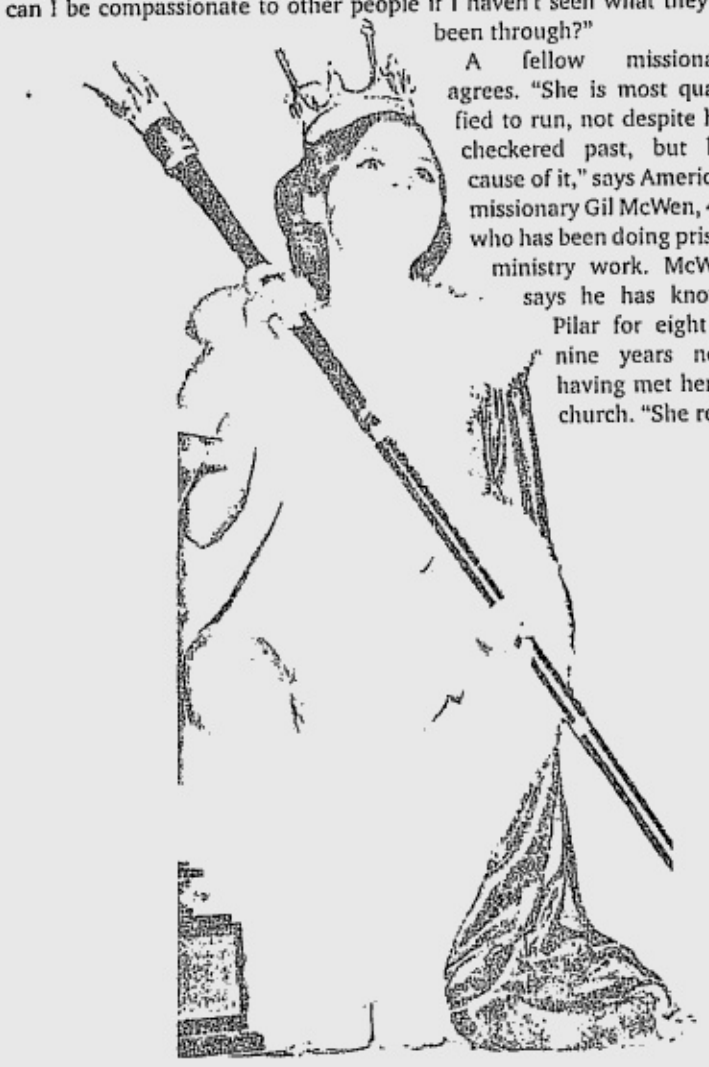

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By Gia Damaso-Dumo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
Photographs by Toots Soberano

A Hero Comes Home

Filipino-American soldier Kelly Bangayan was buried in San Francisco Norte after a quiet life of dreams and deeds

Fallen comrade: Bangayan's remains are carried by troopers of the US Army 82nd Airborne Division based in Seoul, South Korea, above; a proud man in uniform, left

JANUARY 24 was supposed to be the day his tour in Iraq was to end. Instead, it became the day he was buried.

Solomon "Kelly" Bangayan, a 24-year-old US Army Specialist, was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, known as the White Falcons, and had been planning to take a vacation in his home village of San Francisco Norte in Sudipen town, La Union later that year. But he never made the trip. He died in a Baghdad ambush on Jan. 2.

Iraqi fighters had used an explosive device, a rocket-propelled grenade and firearms to attack Bangayan's convoy. Four others were killed in the ambush, according to reports.

US military escorts brought his remains in a sealed coffin back to San Francisco Norte on Jan. 17. He was buried on Jan. 24 with full military honors at the village cemetery upon his parents' wishes.

Even as a US soldier, Bangayan had the heart of an overseas Filipino worker.

Born in Besao, Mt. Province, Bangayan was the fourth of five children and the only boy. His family and neighbors called him "Kelly," after his grandmother had insisted on naming him Quilino, after his grandfather.

Kelly grew up pretty much like the other boys in Barangay San Francisco Norte: Life revolved around going to school, washing one's clothes, working the tobacco and vegetable fields with one's father after school, and for entertainment, watching action movies on TV or basketball and boxing matches during fiestas. He even joined a few boxing matches, says Lyndon Apostol, his best friend since grade school.

But what set Kelly apart from his peers was his growing up without a mother. His father, elder sisters Elma and Phebe, uncles and aunts who lived close by, took turns taking care of him and his younger sister Hilda, an epileptic with a speech impairment. Another sister, Gigi, died at 4.

When he was two-and-a-half years old, Bangayan's mother Helen left home to work abroad, first in Beirut, Lebanon, then in the United States. Since then, she has kept touch only through the telephone. A licensed nursing aide at Copley Manor in Vermont, Helen returned to the Philippines only on Jan. 17 with her son's body.

To become a soldier had always been Bangayan's dream, he wrote in high school slum books. His father Maxilin, a farmer until he was weakened by tuberculosis and asthma, wanted him to become a pastor in their village which, small as it is, is surrounded by four evangelical churches. But even his father now recalls how intense his son's dream was when Bangayan was only in Grade 4.

"I asked him if he wanted to become a pastor and he said 'No' because he did not have a good singing voice. He said he really wanted to become a soldier," Max recalls.

"We were too busy tending to our farm to think of any gimmick. *Mabait siya, tahimik at hindi brusko* (He was kind, quiet and reserved)," Apostol adds.

Since two of his elder sisters were married, Bangayan dreamed of helping out his family by becoming an engineer. Looking for a fast way to get employed, he enrolled in B.S. Industrial Technology, major in diesel mechanics upon the advice of his instructor at the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University in San Fernando City, says his sister Elma.

Bangayan had finished his on-the-job training and was one semester short of graduating when he was called to migrate to the US. He became a US immigrant in 2000 on a petition filed by his mother. After staying briefly in Jay, Vermont, he enlisted in the US Army.

While in the military service, Bangayan constantly thought about his father and siblings, sending money when he could and often giving in to his sisters' "whims," says Elma.

Bangayan's father Maxilin said his son wanted to come home to personally supervise the rebuilding of their ancestral house. What reporters were told was their ancestral house was really a cramped wood-and-concrete two-story affair typical in tobacco-growing communities. The first floor partitions had to be torn down to make room for Bangayan's wake and visitors had to stoop to pass through the main door.

"He gave me an architectural plan for the house. He said he wanted it to be a modern house with an expensive look, but simple. He told me to buy a passenger jeepney but I advised him against it. So he told me to buy a van instead and a new sala set," Bangayan's father recalled.

"After I left him, the only time I saw him again was when he was 20, going on 21," Helen said between sobs. "I didn't even know my son. I sometimes feel guilty that I had petitioned for him, and shortly after he died. Now I have my son home and I can do anything for him."

She added that she would often find comfort in Kelly's words whenever he felt she was getting worried for him, such as on Nov. 11, the last time she saw him alive: "Never cry for me, be proud of me. I chose this, this is what makes me happy."

On Jan. 24, Solomon Bangayan finally came home to San Francisco Norte, not only as a soldier but as a hero.

His coffin was draped with the US flag and his last rites attended by dignitaries, including US Embassy Charge d' Affaires Joseph Mussomeli and his wife, Brig. Gen. John MacDonald, commander of Area II Support, based in Korea, La Union Gov. Victor Ortega, other government officials, a number of his comrades from the White Falcons, and hundreds of mourners and relatives.

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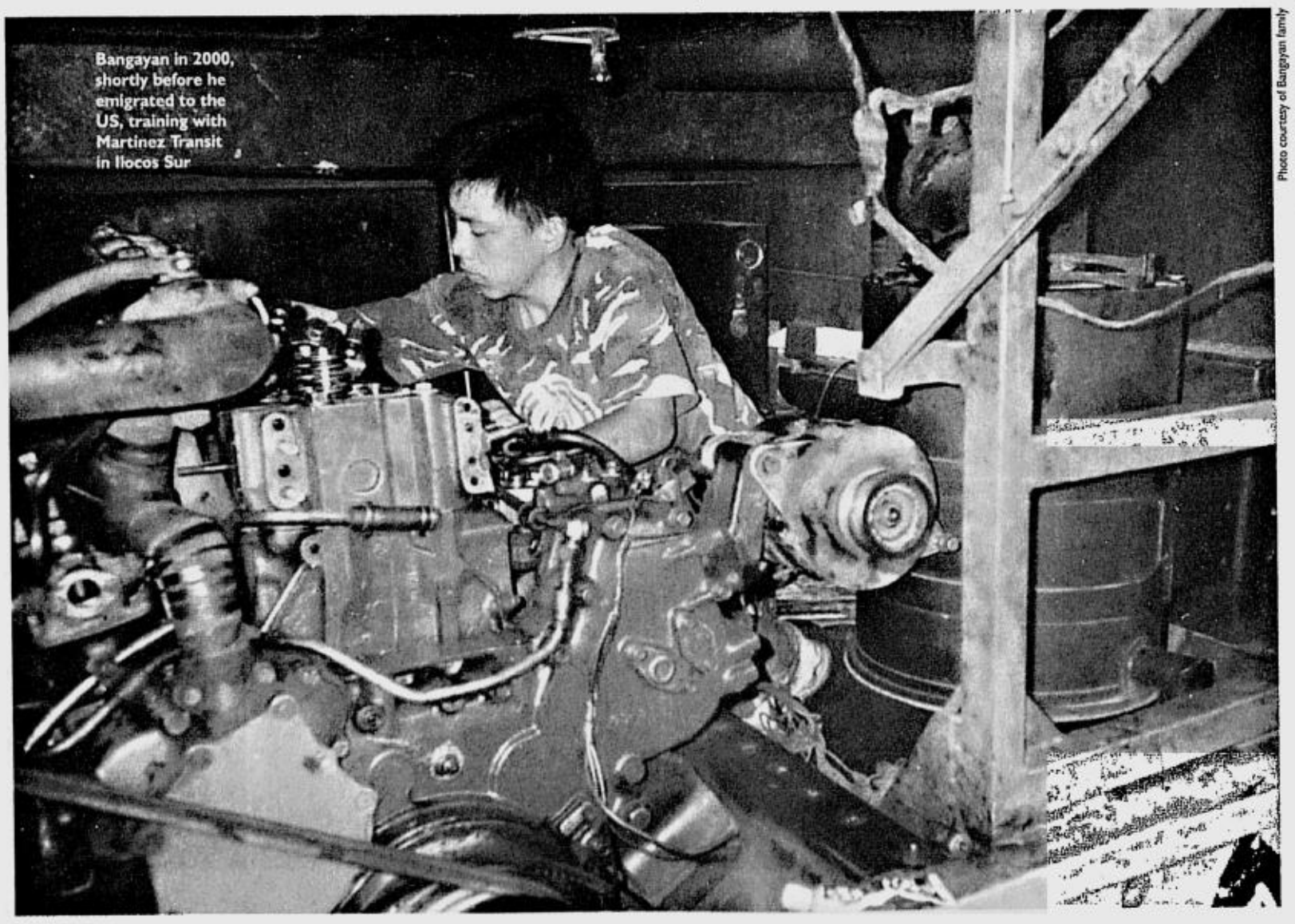

Bangayan in 2000, shortly before he emigrated to the US, training with Martinez Transit in Ilocos Sur

Photo courtesy of Bangayan family

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In Memoriam

By Gia Damaso-Dumo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
Photographs by Toots Soberano

A Hero Comes Home

Fallen comrade: Bangayan's remains are carried by troopers of the US Army 82nd Airborne Division based in Seoul, South Korea, above; a proud man in uniform, left

Filipino-American soldier Kelly Bangayan was buried in San Francisco Norte after a quiet life of dreams and deeds

JANUARY 24 was supposed to be the day his tour in Iraq was to end. Instead, it became the day he was buried.

Solomon "Kelly" Bangayan, a 24-year-old US Army Specialist, was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, known as the White Falcons, and had been planning to take a vacation in his home village of San Francisco Norte in Sudipen town, La Union later that year. But he never made the trip. He died in a Baghdad ambush on Jan. 2.

Iraqi fighters had used an explosive device, a rocket-propelled grenade and firearms to attack Bangayan's convoy. Four others were killed in the ambush, according to reports.

US military escorts brought his remains in a sealed coffin back to San Francisco Norte on Jan. 17. He was buried on Jan. 24 with full military honors at the village cemetery upon his parents' wishes.

Even as a US soldier, Bangayan had the heart of an overseas Filipino worker.

Born in Besao, Mt. Province, Bangayan was the fourth of five children and the only boy. His family and neighbors called him "Kelly," after his grandmother had insisted on naming him Quilino, after his grandfather.

Kelly grew up pretty much like the other boys in Barangay San Francisco Norte: Life revolved around going to school, washing one's clothes, working the tobacco and vegetable fields with one's father after school, and for entertainment, watching action movies on TV or basketball and boxing matches during fiestas. He even joined a few boxing matches, says Lyndon Apostol, his best friend since grade school.

But what set Kelly apart from his peers was his growing up without a mother. His father, elder sisters Elma and Phebe, uncles and aunts who lived close by, took turns taking care of him and his younger sister Hilda, an epileptic with a speech impairment. Another sister, Gigi, died at 4.

When he was two-and-a-half years old, Bangayan's mother Helen left home to work abroad, first in Beirut, Lebanon, then in the United States. Since then, she has kept touch only through the telephone. A licensed nursing aide at Copley Manor in Vermont, Helen returned to the Philippines only on Jan. 17 with her son's body.

To become a soldier had always been Bangayan's dream, he wrote in high school slum books. His father Maxilin, a farmer until he was weakened by tuberculosis and asthma, wanted him to become a pastor in their village which, small as it is, is surrounded by four evangelical churches. But even his father now recalls how intense his son's dream was when Bangayan was only in Grade 4.

"I asked him if he wanted to become a pastor and he said 'No' because he did not have a good singing voice. He said he really wanted to become a soldier," Max recalls.

"We were too busy tending to our farm to think of any gimmick. *Mabait siya, tahimik at hindi brusko* (He was kind, quiet and reserved)," Apostol adds.

Since two of his elder sisters were married, Bangayan dreamed of helping out his family by becoming an engineer. Looking for a fast way to get employed, he enrolled in B.S. Industrial Technology, major in diesel mechanics upon the advice of his instructor at the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University in San Fernando City, says his sister Elma.

Bangayan had finished his on-the-job training and was one semester short of graduating when he was called to migrate to the US. He became a US immigrant in 2000 on a petition filed by his mother. After staying briefly in Jay, Vermont, he enlisted in the US Army.

While in the military service, Bangayan constantly thought about his father and siblings, sending money when he could and often giving in to his sisters' "whims," says Elma.

Bangayan's father Maxilin said his son wanted to come home to personally supervise the rebuilding of their ancestral house. What reporters were told was their ancestral house was really a cramped wood-and-concrete two-story affair typical in tobacco-growing communities. The first floor partitions had to be torn down to make room for Bangayan's wake and visitors had to stoop to pass through the main door.

"He gave me an architectural plan for the house. He said he wanted it to be a modern house with an expensive look, but simple. He told me to buy a passenger jeepney but I advised him against it. So he told me to buy a van instead and a new sala set," Bangayan's father recalled.

"After I left him, the only time I saw him again was when he was 20, going on 21," Helen said between sobs. "I didn't even know my son. I sometimes feel guilty that I had petitioned for him, and shortly after he died. Now I have my son home and I can do anything for him."

She added that she would often find comfort in Kelly's words whenever he felt she was getting worried for him, such as on Nov. 11, the last time she saw him alive: "Never cry for me, be proud of me. I chose this, this is what makes me happy."

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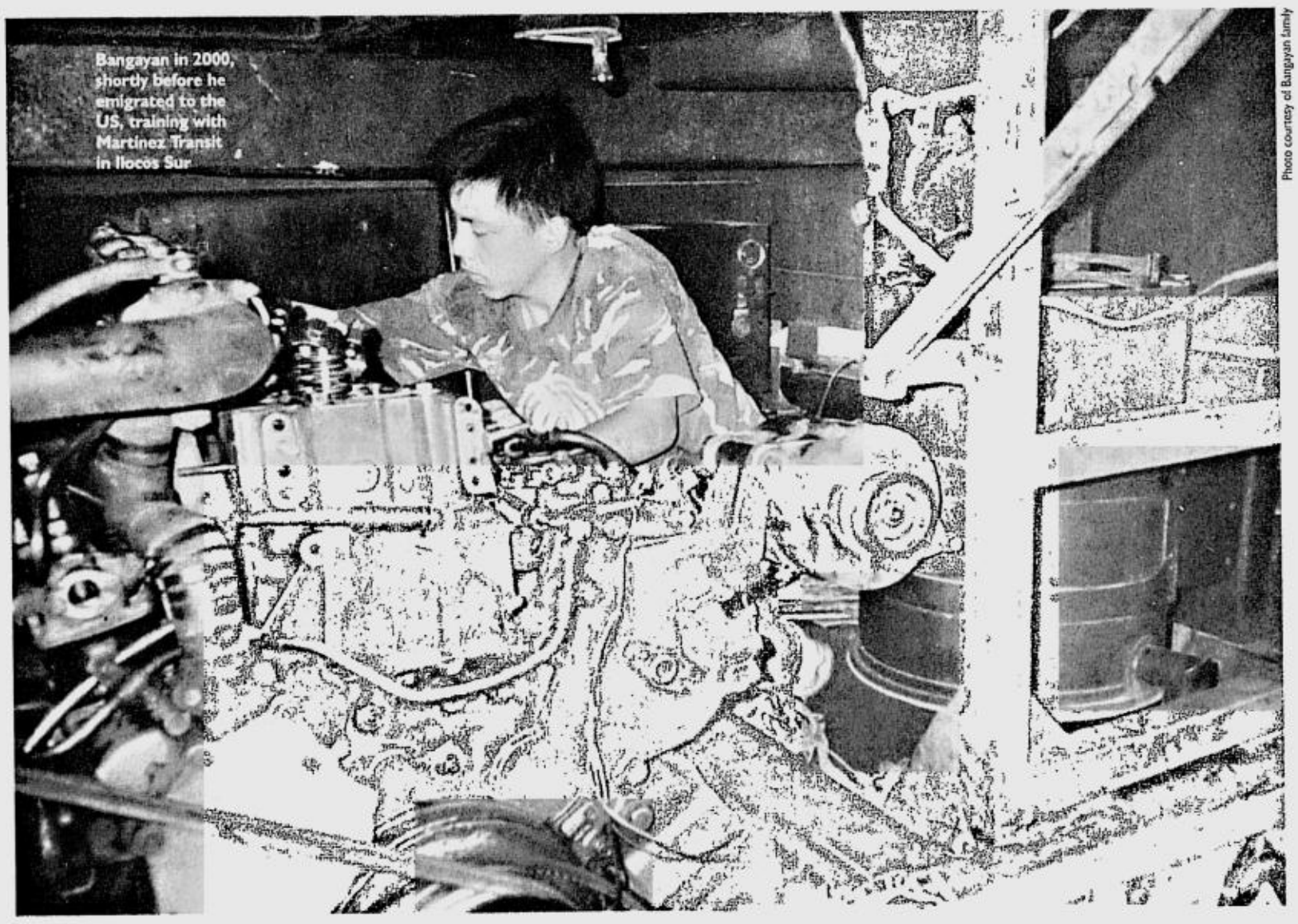

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Photo courtesy of Bangayan family

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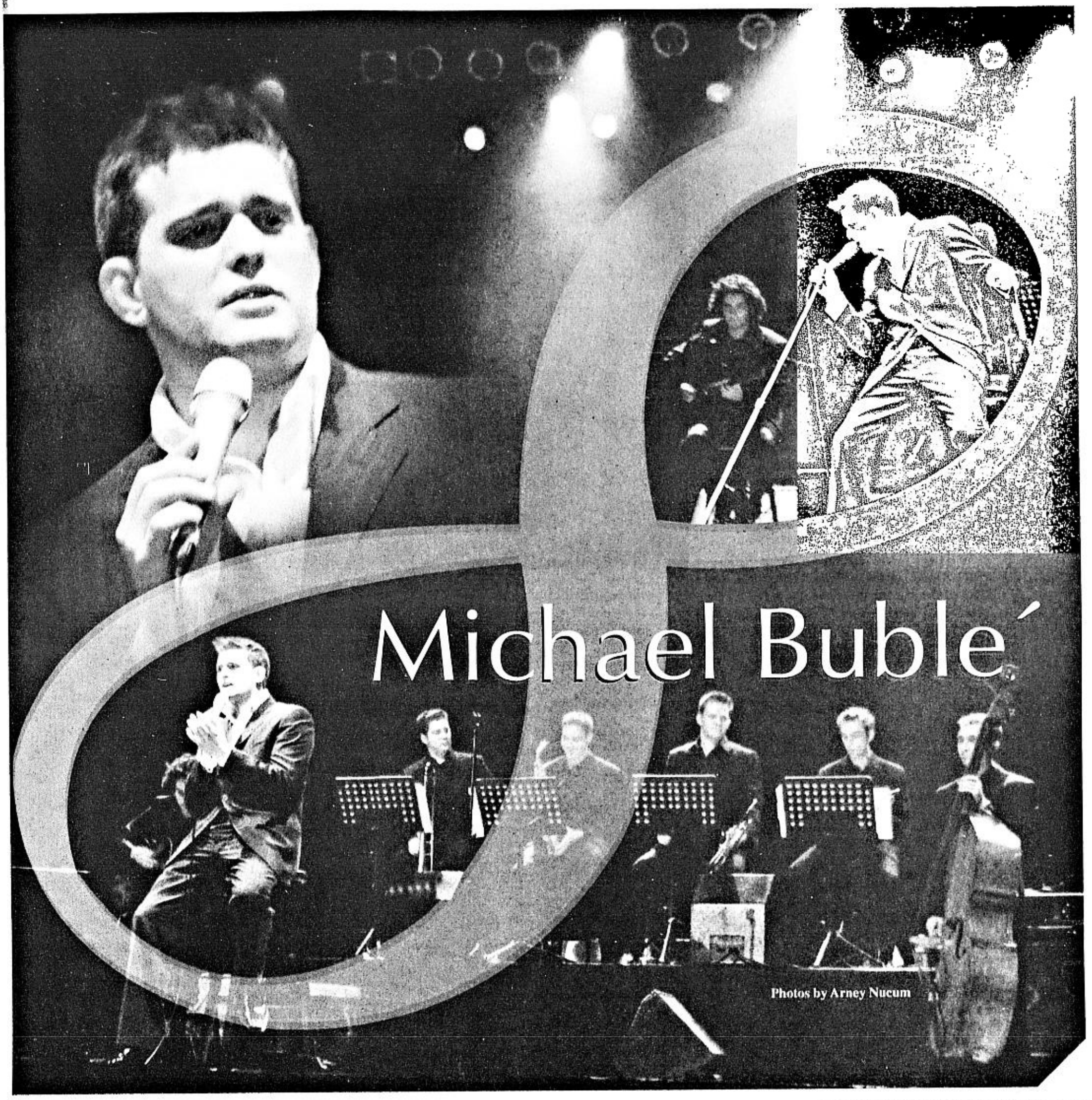
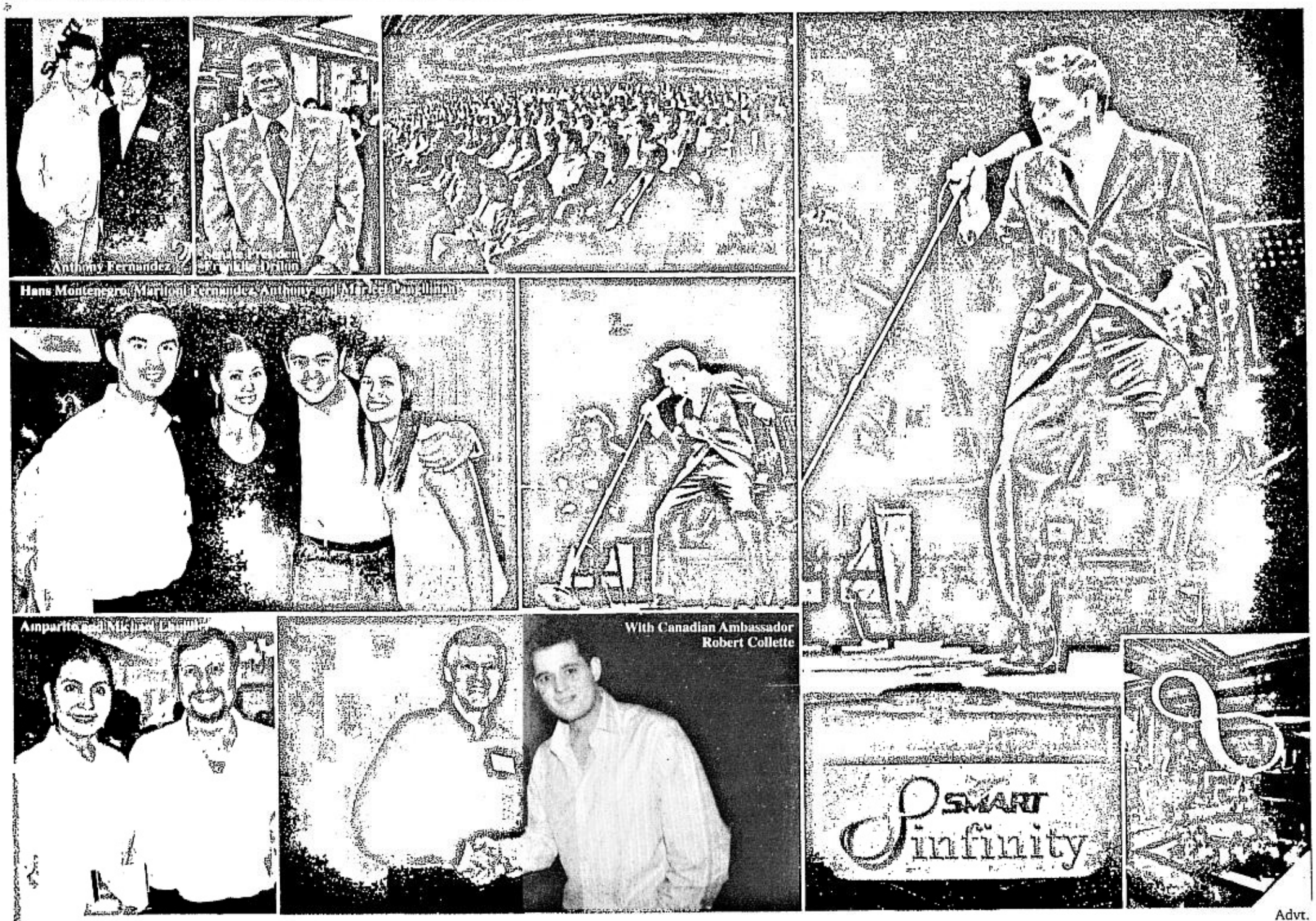

Michael Bublé
Photos by Arney Nucum


Anthony Fernandez
Hans Montenegro, Marilou Fernandez, Anthony Fernandez
With Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette
SMART Infinity

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SMART Infinity & Michael Buble:

History in the Making

Simply Magic

Close your eyes and listen to Michael Buble, and you catch the sense of a glittering era gone but definitely not past. His songs, voice, and humour speak of the elegant rake, of the casual machismo translated in the all-descriptive mood of 50's and 60's Ring-A-DingDing. "This is the kind of music I love to do," he said at the Shangri La Makati Presscon.

That voice, already being compared with the likes of Sinatra or Bobby Darin, lilts through the air, hitting melodious crescendos and reverberates to dramatic whispers. It was that Buble magic which transformed the recent nationwide launch of the prestigious new mobile service SMART Infinity into a fitting showcase of glamour and privilege.

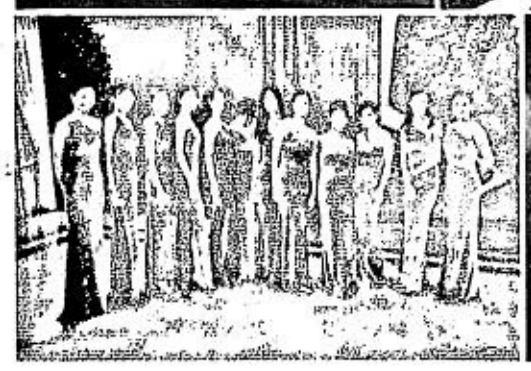
Birth of a Legend

All of Manila's best came out dressed to the nines at the Meralco Theatre last January 28, 2004 to hear Michael Buble regale the senses. Out in the historic lobby, guests were feted to exquisite canapes and overflowing Moet Chandon. Imported white tulips from Mabolo were given to the ladies. Spotted at the affair were society luminaries like Doh Ejercito, Yvonne Yuchengco, Helen Dee, Mercy Tuason, and Boling Reyes.

Glimpses were made possible into the amazing new mobile service non pareil that is SMART Infinity care of free trial SIMs given that night. Imagine trying out SMART Infinity's wonderful service.

Indeed there was unbelievable new clamor for the perks available for SMART Infinity subscribers : unmatched customer service with a dedicated personal Infinity Account Manager to handle all your requests and just out to spoil you, unique value added services like automatic roaming and security features, and a top-of-the line handset of your choice.

It was a heady, dreamy affair repeated with Michael Buble concerts at the PICC January 30 and at Cebu on January 31 at a packed Waterfront Hotel Lahug Concert Hall. The scale of response was terrific onstage and at the reception; hordes of the glitterati craned their necks to get a piece of SMART Infinity. Just like Buble's music, SMART Infinity has more than words can fully describe. We're all in for simply the very best.



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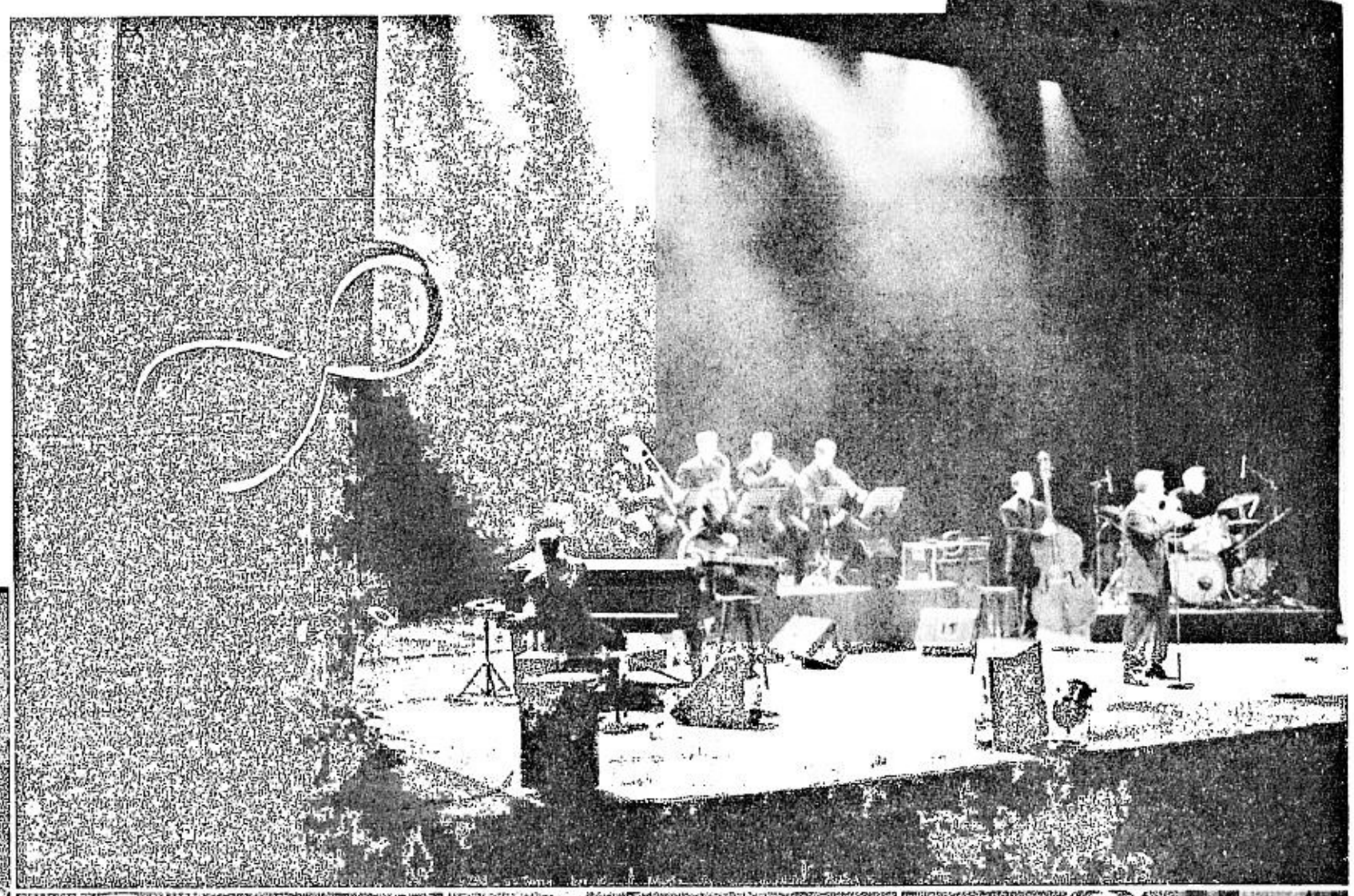

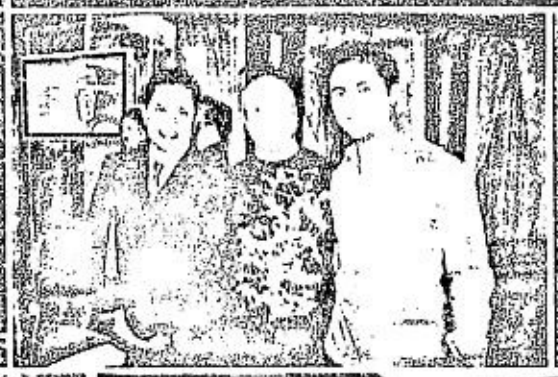

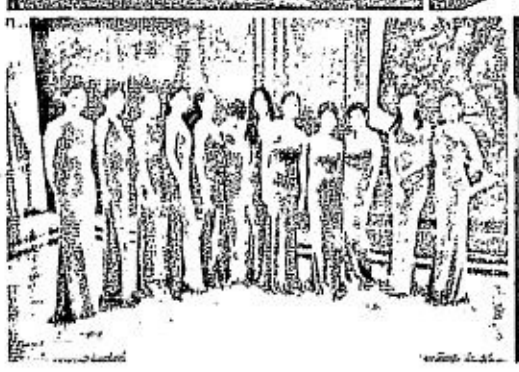

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All in the Game

Skateboarding to Success

By Lorenzo Z. Mangulat

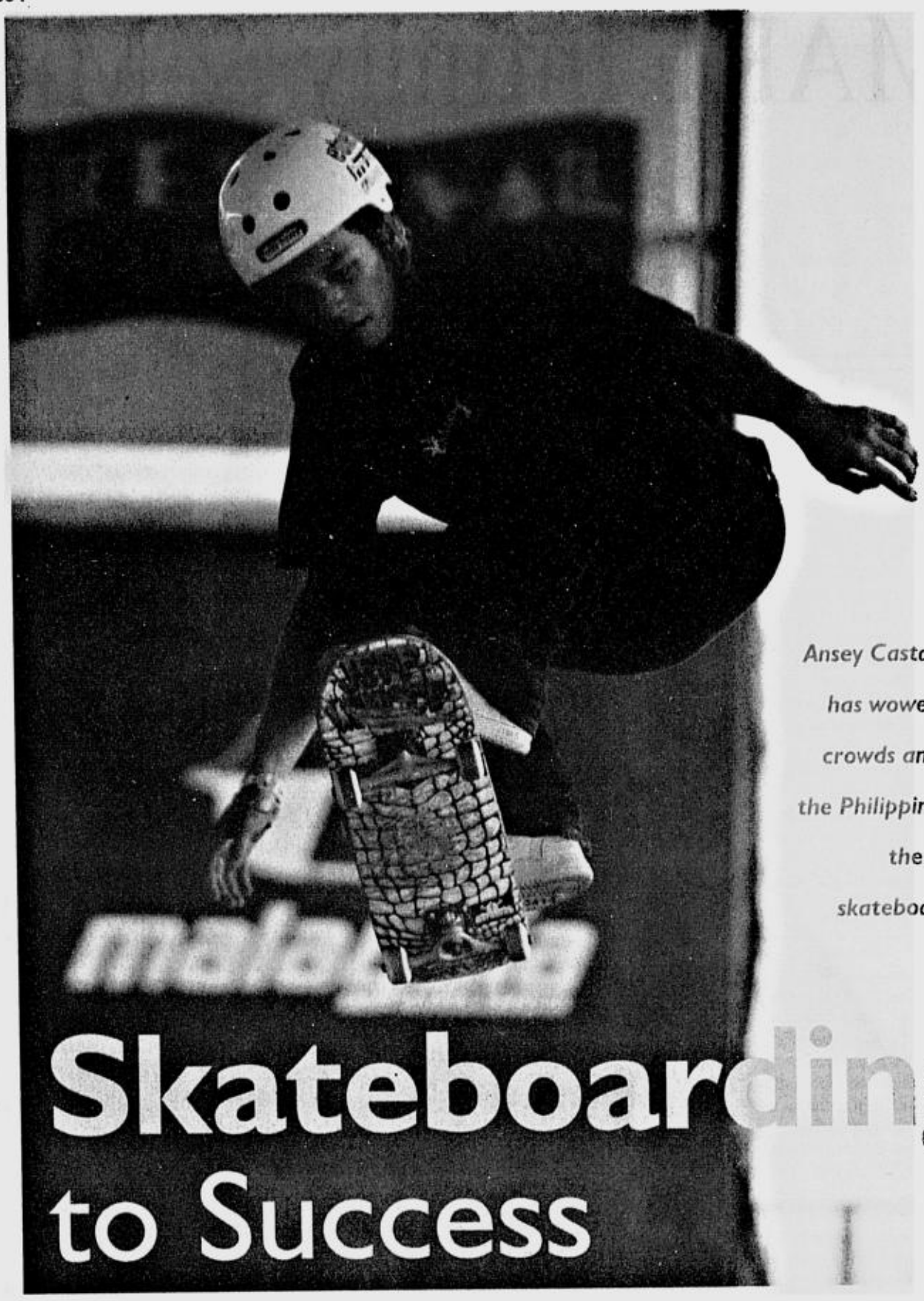

Photo Courtesy of DINZO TABAYO

Ansey Castañeda has wowed the crowds and put the Philippines on the Asian skateboarding map

LIKE so many Filipinos trying to make a name for themselves, Ansey Castañeda learned the tricks of the trade on the streets—literally.

In fact, Castañeda honed his assortment of techniques on countless pavement floors, ramps and railings around Metro Manila that he could have easily made more rounds than the cops.

Castañeda is currently the country's best skateboarder, having ruled the ESPN Asian X-Tour Manila last December. As with every performance, the 22-year-old elicited oohs and aahs from a fascinated crowd of nearly 30,000 at the Filinvest Corporate City as he executed a variety of flips, grinds and ollies (jumps with the skateboard) on the park course.

The victory allowed Castañeda to book a ticket to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia this month to compete against the region's best skaters in the Asian X-Games and possibly advance further at the Olympics of extreme sports, the Summer X-Games in Los Angeles, California in August.

Three years ago, Castañeda was on the brink of being the first locally-trained skateboarder to land a spot in the Summer X-Games X in the United States, when he placed third behind two Australians in the Asian Finals (only the first placer advanced to the Summer X-Games).

Like so many kids who took up skateboarding for fun, Castañeda became engrossed with the four-wheeled contraption early on, as a seven-year-old. Back then, he would tag along with his older brother to the Araneta Center, which was near their house in Cubao, and use a smaller fiberglass board.

Yet, unlike so many others who would eventually treat skateboarding as a mere passing fancy, Castañeda was hooked, and his fascination and passion never wavered. He would move on to use the regulation size skateboard and make his regular pilgrimage to Kapitolyo, Pasig and malls within the metropolis like Harrison Plaza and SM North Edsa to meet up and practice with other skateboarders. Sometimes, Castañeda and his gang would earn the ire of security guards and would get chased out of their temporary playgrounds.

Soon thereafter he competed in his first local event organized by High Adventure Skate Shop in 1996. Castañeda could have opted to enter the beginner's category, but his immense self-confidence led him to challenge veteran skaters in the advanced division. Riding his board with nothing to lose, he stunned the field and claimed first place. "I always liked the challenge of having to learn new tricks," says Castañeda in Filipino.

It would turn out to be just the start for Castañeda, as he would top several more local competitions like the Philips X-Rush. Despite the non-existence of world class skate parks, Castañeda and other extreme sports enthusiasts and athletes continued to practice and thrive.

"We would normally have events in makeshift parks. They would close streets or use covered basketball courts or tennis courts as venues," Castañeda reveals. "If you see the skate parks in Malaysia, you'll be amazed, but even if we lack the facilities, other than the Australians, we can easily beat the others in Asia. Filipinos have the guts."

Together with other extreme sport athletes such as BMX rider Mark Schultz, inline skater Rogelio Yangco and fellow skateboarder Gene Ramilo, Castañeda presently oversees operations at Sessions Skatepark in Mandaluyong.

With just a few weeks left before he embarks on his quest in Kuala Lumpur, Castañeda is rigorously practicing five to six hours a day. Remarkably, he has never been in a major accident, nor has he suffered career-threatening injuries despite the perils of his sport. The most he had had to deal with were sprains. He attributes this mainly to weight-training, which not a lot of people in his sport consider doing.

Ansey Castañeda doesn't know how long he'll continue doing tricks and stunts, but for now, he's quite satisfied riding his skateboard to success.

The Artist Abroad

By Luis H. Francia

In Search of the Paris Pinoy

Meeting other Filipinos outside North America confirms my belief that living in the diaspora extends and redefines what it means to have come from somewhere else; the sense of dislocation highlights the temporality of place and nationality, and complicates questions of allegiance

New York—With its brash cosmopolitan energy and forthrightness, New York mesmerizes. Paris, on the other hand, with its sophisticated languor and worldliness, seduces. Taking advantage of low airfares and hotel rates, my wife and I had forsaken the former, with its Arctic climes, for a week's worth of exploration of the latter, the fabled city of lights, with its gray mansard roofs and ineffable Gallic shrug. Parisians rush about during the day but mellow considerably in the late afternoons, believing firmly in the sacrosanct tradition of spending a substantial amount of time in bars and cafés. Paris, thankfully, hardly encourages Puritanical spoilsports to flourish; its pace, between all-day idleness and frenzy, suited us. We had at the same time looked up some friends, who've lived for varying periods of time in the city by the Seine, long enough to know intimately this historic citadel, once the moveable feast in the first half of the 20th century, and still a formidable cultural force, certainly in fashion and literary theory (imagine Derrida and Barthes as the haute couture avatars of Western lit crits).

It turned out that our hotel was in Montmartre, the famous bohemian neighborhood, where incidentally the writer Reine Arcache Melvin, or Bonnie, and her husband Alain and their family live. (Bonnie's book of short stories, "A Normal Life and Other Stories," by the way, has recently been translated into French.) For us *etrangers*, Bonnie and Alain played the role of knowledgeable and gracious guides. The first evening, we walked around the hilly *arrondisement*, slowly wending our way via the Place Des Abbesses, to the Sacre Coeur, which, looking somewhat like Washington's Capitol, sits astride a hill, and affords a generous view of the city, with the Eiffel Tower easily recognizable in the west. The crisp, clear night laid out the charms of a Parisian neighborhood, where people walked around with baguettes. We examined original Art-Noveau Metropolitain (or subway) grillwork by Hector Guimard, and delighted in coming across small squares, with their retinues of cozy bistros, patisseries and boutiques. We stood in front of the old piano factory, known as the Bateau-Lavoir, where some of the artists who indelibly shaped 20th century art worked: Picasso, Braque, Juan Gris. It was here where Picasso worked on the groundbreaking *"Les Demoiselles d'Avignon."* And the surrounding area was where Zola, Turgenev, Degas and Van Gogh lived, in earlier times. At the somewhat bogus Place de Tertre (postcard-prettified for visitors like us), I half expected Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron to trip the light fantastic, or the star-crossed lovers of La Boheme to launch into arias.

Like other great cities, Paris has this ability of allowing its denizens to traverse significant sections of it by foot, to encourage each one who wishes to, to don the role of *flaneur*, and discover the secret pulses that beat underneath the city's skin. We did our fair share of *flaneur*-ing, devoting one morning to locating the apartment building where one of literature's most famous insomniacs Marcel Proust had spent his first 30 years. We found it on Boulevard Malesherbes in a fashionable *arrondisement*, not far from the Champs Elysées gardens, where he played as a kid, and which he describes in "Swann's Way."

As for the Pinoys we hung out with-including the artists Juvenal Sansó and Ofelia Gelvezon-Tequi—none of them apparently landed here by design. For Bonnie, "Paris was an accident. I came here to visit a friend and was enchanted by the city—you can see why. The beauty, the street theater, the shadows, the history, the sexuality. I had reached a point where I no longer trusted words—my words, other people's words—and in Paris there were no words, because I couldn't speak the language. So I watched—I felt invisible, and that was a great comfort."

Sansó seems to have arrived here in similar fashion. He had gone to Rome shortly after graduating from UP's Fine Arts School, but didn't quite take to the city by the Tiber, though he did learn the language so well he was regularly mistaken for a native speaker. In 1953 the Catalan-born artist, a true global citizen conversant with several languages (his fluency in Tagalog would put to shame many of Manila's mestizos), moved north, to Paris, attracted by the artistic ferment, and has lived there since.

Lively as ever, Juvenal Sansó looked fit, younger than many a man a decade his junior. As he regaled us with stories, we drank champagne in the kitchen of his studio cum apartment, not far from the Arc de Triomphe. He knew José Garcia Villa but he and the famously dictatorial poet didn't get along. George Roualt's son-in-law was a dear friend. Once, his friend invited him to the artist's residence but Sansó was too shy to meet the famous man. He was on a nodding-acquaintance basis with Sartre, at the Café Deux Magots, celebrated watering hole of Left Bank intellectuals and Existentialists. Sansó showed us some of his works, hand-painted slides that are tapestries of brilliant colors and, owing to the scale, incredibly difficult to create-works so very different from the Brittany-inspired seascapes that are perhaps his most familiar works. At heart, though, as much as he's comfortable in Paris, he's still a Manileño. He plans to sell his studio cum apartment and return to the city by the Pasig, where his sister continues to manage the family business, Arte Español. Indeed, the magnificent black chandelier hanging from his ceiling was built, according to his design, by Arte Español craftsmen.

Ofelia Gelvezon-Tequi, who's lived for the most part in Paris since 1973, seemed the most at ease here and that's probably because while she may not necessarily have wanted to move here when she did, she "always regrets leaving a place." Over a lunch she hosted, of couscous and merguez at an Algerian restaurant, she reflected on her situation. "I never thought of myself as a Parisienne. A Filipina living in Paris, yes, or wherever Marc"—her husband—"was assigned before." Being an expat artist in Paris, following an illustrious tradition of foreign-born artists moving here, she says, "has been good for my art, yes, *kasi* I think I have also the physical distance to 'comment' on things Philippine." She had just recently taken her oath of allegiance to the Republic "of *da Pilipins. Pinoy ulit ako* thanks to the new dual nationality law!" Her children may avail of this new law, "*Ialo na* the youngest, who's the most enthusiastic" about his Filipino roots. Other Pinoy artists have lived here, of course, including the late Nena Saguil and Pandy Aviado, a friend and cograduate of mine, now back in Quezon City. And there's Gaston Damag, whom I didn't get a chance to meet, unfortunately.

"*Frontera de Dioses*," 1985, by Juvenal Sansó

Meeting other Filipinos outside North America confirms my belief that living in the diaspora extends and redefines what it means to have come from somewhere else; the sense of dislocation highlights the temporality of place and nationality, and complicates questions of allegiance. How Filipino artists from different disciplines approach their material is greatly influenced by the same need that Bonnie feels: to "re-create a world I never quite had." Consciously or unconsciously seeking that world-call it home, call it self-transforms the physical voyage into a Proustian one, a catalyst for involuntary memory, and the true key to revelation.

Art

The 101 Most Beautiful Necklaces will feature the exquisite handiwork of a creative force of 16 Italian jewelers all based in Venice from Feb. 10 to 24 at the Greenbelt 3 Lobby. One of the jewelers exhibiting in Manila will be the renowned House of Vaccari.

Cropped, a two-man show of recent works by Parker Encisa and Don Djerassi Dalmacio, until Feb. 11 at Artistree Fine Art Gallery, Art, Plaza, Edsa Shangri-La, Mandaluyong City.

Ed Adriano is holding an exhibit of his latest paintings in acrylic on canvas and gouache on paper, at the CIEF Coffeeshop, 229 Tomas Morato Avenue, QC.

Music

It's a lunch or dinner date with Danish siren **Susanne Cal** at the Makati Shangri-La's Island Café until Feb. 12. Cal will enchant guests with her gospel, pop, disco, soul and jazz tunes. For reservations, call 840-0884.

"L'Arcobaleno" by Giorgio Vaccari, part of "The 101 Most Beautiful Necklaces" at Greenbelt 3 lobby'

Regine Velasquez and Ogie Alcasid team up for the Valentine concert **The Songbird and the Songwriter.. Journey of Love... Music to Remember** on Feb. 14 at the Expo Filipino in Clarkfield, Pampanga and on Feb. 15 at the Araneta Coliseum. Tickets available at all SM Ticketnet outlets and at the Araneta Ticketnet (911-5555). For inquiries, call Viva Concerts at 687-5853 or 687-1125.

On Feb. 13, 14 and 15, have a **Valentine Dinner Special with Lissa Romero**, who recently returned from her "Miss Saigon" stint in the UK, as she performs a repertoire of ballads and old songs at 7 p.m. at Caffe Ricco Renzo, G/F, LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City. For reservations, call 898-2542 to 43.

The Apo will hold a concert **APOlitically Incorrect Valentine** on Feb. 12, 8 p.m. at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo. The show will also feature Nyoy Volante and comedian Jon Santos. Tickets available at major National Bookstore branches, Robinsons Dept. Store, Tower Records, Music Museum or call 891-9999.

James Ingram will hold a meet-and-greet session on Feb. 12, 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Atrium of SM Megamall. Ingram will also perform in a one-night concert with Patti Austin on Feb. 14 at the PICC Open Field. Tickets available at all SM Ticketnet outlets or call 911-5555 or Icon Productions at 373-5734.

Cinema

Pelikula@titusbrandsma presents "Brief Encounter" by David Lean, "The Piano Teacher" by Michael Haneke and "Medea" by Lars von Trier on Feb. 14 at 1 p.m. at Titus Brandsma Center (24 Acacia Drive, Cubao, Quezon City). For inquiries, call 721-8677 / 726-7763 (Jofti).

Atbp

On Feb. 12, 13 and 14, The **Met Theatre** Guild Foundation will hold **open auditions** for actors, singers and dancers aged 16 and above for roles in the contemporary version of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. Auditions will be held at Astoria Plaza, 15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Actors should be ready to perform any monologue from Shakespeare in a contemporary, conversational manner. Dancers should prepare a three-minute dance piece, any form, and bring their own musical accompaniment on CD or cassette. Singers will be required to sing any song a capella. Call The Met Theatre office at 436-2778 to schedule your audition.

In A Sense of Belonging: The Ties That Bind, Tina P. Colayco lectures on how a large part of the Filipinos' heritage and identity has been shaped by shared history and migrant ancestry around the Asian region. To be held on Feb. 14 at the Lopez Memorial Museum, Benpres Building, Pasig from 2-4 p.m. For details, call Fanny at 631-2417 or 449-2355.

The Popular Education for People Empowerment will hold a three-day seminar-workshop **Mano Poe: Popular Culture in Philippine Elections and Politics** on the following dates: Feb. 16-18 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.), Feb. 23-25 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and March 11 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at 17 Malusog St., UP Village, Diliman, QC. For details, call 925-2176 or 928-8802.

X-manila

The **4th Vipassana 10-day meditation retreat** will be held on Feb. 16-27 at Holy Family Retreat House, Bgy. Dolores, Taytay, Rizal. Vipassana, meaning to "see things as they really are," is a 2,500-year-old meditation technique that originated in India, aimed towards achieving equanimity in daily life. For more information, visit the website www.dhamma.org. Interested parties may download the application form from the site and send to Modie de Castro via email (modjini@yahoo.com) or fax to 636-2361. For inquiries, contact any of the following: Gener Mendoza (09189058750), Art Pambid 643-4164 or e-mail vipassana_rp@yahoo.com.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

By Jess Abrera

Pirated Videos

Imee ...from page 8

through all this food. I am not so much into weight. I try on my dresses to see if these still fit me. It becomes a problem when I feel it's getting tighter. I stand 5'5".

Are you an early riser?

It depends. I am no longer on the campaign trail these days. Before, I had to catch a flight as early as 3 a.m. I am more relaxed now. My wake-up time is 7 a.m. I get harassed when I have to be interviewed over radio programs, asking for my reactions regarding a particular headline. Sometimes, I haven't gotten hold of the papers yet. That's when I have to resort to trickery in my answers!

Do you read?

All my readings are work-related. Everything I have read so far has something to do with terrorism, copyright laws and other hard core stuff. I sneak in some poetry, but hardly.

What is your beauty secret?

I am not really a paragon of beauty. I don't know how I look. I am a very lazy person. My mom's beauty regimen is vintage: She's a Pond's Cold Cream girl. She has been using the same cream since 1950. She doesn't take her make-up off because she's tired when she gets home. She's very haphazard. I guess I'm lucky because I have very good genes.

What do you like most and least about being Imee Marcos?

What I like least is I am being judged before I've been met. That's very boring, especially if people have sick notions about how you look and sound. I don't have a chance at all to introduce myself, and I find that very strange. By nature, I don't like being confined by rules, so I tend to have a rather liberal spin on things, which puts people off, and they tell me that kind of approach is fake. I am a Marcos, and I am congenitally dictatorial. That's stupid and absurd! They say my dad is such and such. I tell them, he never said these things. I am asked why I am the first to object to the presence of the US military in the Philippines when my dad was an ally of the Americans. People are surprised at the positions I take that are left-leaning. You see, our "isms" are burdens of the past.

How about when others say that your theater days paved the way for Kris Aquino?

I never made a movie. What I did was produce movies. I am a founding member of Dulaang UP. My mother always told me that I am the purveyor of popular entertainment. I also did years and years of movies for children. I would love to do some children's films. I still have a dream project which I think is very costly, the kind that will not do well in the box office unless this is supplemented by TV shows. About Kris? Why did she embark *ba* on a film career? In my family, it was normal for us to be in the field of arts; it runs in my blood. But I have no compulsion to perform. I would like to produce and write. It's my son who is into performing arts. Borgy is ready to take the plunge which I didn't dare take—becoming a full-time actor.

Back to your regimen. People say you have had a reconstructive surgery.

None!

A facelift, perhaps?

Same thing—none of that! I don't think that I am still beautiful. That's not true. My face is getting worse. As you get old, you get sharper. When you are young you still have this baby fat. Now, I have these different angular cuts on my face. No surgery at all. I think I chose my parents well. I am lucky to have good skin, and have never had a bad hair day. What I do is I drink lots of water and I hang out with a lot of young people. I have lots of *bading* (gay) friends, and I like to laugh-a lot. And I have been seeing someone for the longest time; I'm happy with him.

LoveNotes

By Joe D' Mango

Miracle or Illusion?

I acknowledge that I have fallen hard for Verna, despite the glaring reality. I have made attempts to forget her but my efforts proved futile. The magic just won't go away

Dear Joe,

Just call me Ram. I'm female, but my encounters with love have currently left my sexual preference in uncertainty. By encounters, I mean having received expressions of love and offers of relationships from both sexes.

Actually, Joe, I think I am ready for love and I am trying to remain open-minded. But there seemed to be something lacking from the attention I received. It's that feeling inside when you know that you are in love, something like magic. I didn't really know what it was exactly until 10 months ago, when I met Verna. I only had the chance to be with her for three days during a work-related out-of-town activity. It was very brief, but it was really magical, an unimaginably wonderful feeling.

In those days, we really didn't have the chance to hang out together. We only exchanged glances. It was never sexual, but it was so wonderful. There was a short moment when we discussed business, and we had to exchange cell phone numbers. When we got back to Manila, I got in touch with her and asked how she was doing. She responded, and I thought then we already had a connection.

If this was not love, Joe, then I didn't know what it was. I thought Verna, who finished psychology, could sense what was happening and what I was trying to do. Too shy and scared, I couldn't ask, so I was content with how things were.

Then, all of a sudden, there were no replies to my text messages. Later, I found out she changed her number, and the sad part is that I was the reason. Verna was gone.

There have been a few times when I bumped into her, but she was very detached. During the most recent transaction, she didn't even look me in the eye.

It has been 10 months since I felt that magic with Verna. I was sure it wasn't infatuation. Yet I acknowledge that I have fallen hard for Verna, despite the glaring reality. I have attempted to forget her but my efforts proved futile. The magic just won't go away. I have had sad, vivid dreams of her.

I have had thoughts of walking up to Verna and telling her how much I miss her, and that my intention is pure, yet I know that I will never muster the courage to do that.

It's funny, Joe, how magic could mean a miracle, yet it is also synonymous with illusion. What happened to my feelings for Verna?

Sincerely,
Ram

Dear Ram,

It has always been said that what the lips can't utter, the eyes can tell. Most friendships start with a stare, a look or a glance. There can be a thousand words locked in each meeting of the eyes. I suppose you have given so much meaning to those looks that you started to build an image of the two of you together in your mind.

Most of us go through that stage where we think we know that it is love that we feel for a person. The way that feeling controls our lives definitely says much about its intensity and influence—so strong that we are almost always made to believe that it cannot be any other feeling but love.

When a person occupies our thoughts and directs our lives in a way that is unusually uncommon, we tell ourselves that we have fallen for that person. But I have always believed that love is a product of time. It isn't something that just pops out of nowhere and suddenly consumes us. When the people we are really attracted to become more elusive, our interest in them becomes strong, so strong that we begin to fixate on them. They become objects of our fascination. We become totally engulfed in an overpowering emotion that we often mistake as love.

Ram, you have allowed Verna to take control of your life which she didn't have any intention to dominate. That is the reason why she started to avoid you. She probably didn't want you to be expecting something that she cannot give. And you just have to accept that.

For as long as you keep thinking of the beautiful relationship that could have probably been, then you will always be a prisoner of Verna. You have to let go, Ram. There is no use standing around and waiting for someone who has left you behind. You have to move on and continue the race. Only when you stop looking back and focus insteadon what you have been blessed with today can you look forward to a future where your heart will find a place to stay, a place where there is love, happiness and a promise of forever.

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(YEAR 1 TO 4)

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Encounter

By Marla Congee S. Gomez

Imee Uncovered

The most outspoken of the Marcos children recently bared some skin for a fundraising sketching session. In this candid exchange, she bares a whole lot more, from her takes on the Marcos wealth and martial law, to motherhood and her beauty secrets . .

JIM GUMO PUNZALAN

HEADS snap when she storms into a room. You are intrigued by the packaging, the long limbs, the jeans, the gayspeak. Just turned 47 last November 12, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos seems more delighted to be called the "Fiesta Queen of the Land" than the author of House bills on infidelity, the right of suffrage for absentee voting, and the prohibition of green card holders from being appointed to any public office, among others.

But where will the up-and-coming local polls lead Imee? In the family's ancestral house in San Juan, the late strongman's eldest daughter, who again surprised people by posing provocatively for an artists' sketching session, was candid, partly relaxed and partly serious.

Where will your politics lie in the coming elections?

We have declared early on that we're for FPJ. There were efforts at a continued Lakas-KBL coalition in the province because we inherited a great number of Lakas mayors. But this did not work out. As a result, my brother said we should support a close ally of the family—it's FPJ. My parents stood as godparents at their wedding, and his mom was my dad's classmate in UP. FPJ was married Christmas Day and we, the children, attended the wedding. I remember we were at the back of the church, wearing our pajamas, and my dad was worried the ceremony might take long. There were very few people because they had eloped!

How do you feel about Loren joining FPJ?

We have no objections to Loren.

What kind of president do you think we need now?

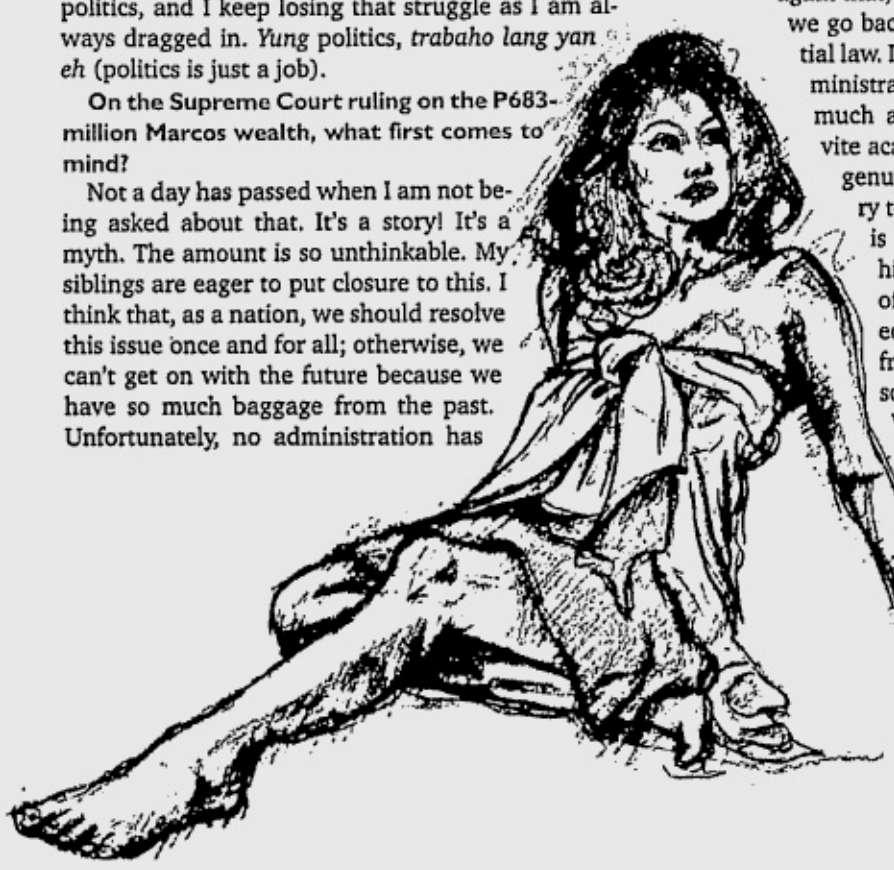
My dad was a President, but times have changed. I can't compare my dad's time with the present situation. Since I am a woman, I am obliged to understand how far we have gone down the road with Mrs. Aquino and President Macapagal. The possibility of a woman as Chief Executive was simply not there before. But we need someone who can give us new changes. People just want change, and there are talks of revolution going around. Even those who are not entirely convinced by the FPJ option are going with it, as long as there is something new.

So you're quite focused on politics as a career.

I don't see politics as my career; this is certainly not my life. I have been here for quite a long time, and now it's going to be another three years. I would like to buckle down to write and do something serious. I just think politics is not a noble pursuit. Writing or being a patroness of the arts or any creative endeavor is more dignified at some level. It has always been a struggle to pull out of politics, and I keep losing that struggle as I am always dragged in. *Yung* politics, *trabaho lang yan eh* (politics is just a job).

On the Supreme Court ruling on the P683-million Marcos wealth, what first comes to mind?

Not a day has passed when I am not being asked about that. It's a story! It's a myth. The amount is so unthinkable. My siblings are eager to put closure to this. I think that, as a nation, we should resolve this issue once and for all; otherwise, we can't get on with the future because we have so much baggage from the past. Unfortunately, no administration has been able to grapple with it. The reality is, there is paltry evidence on both sides. There is no paper trail; there's no smoking gun.



From the UP Artists' sketching session; sketch by Pam Liban

A recent SWS survey says that Filipinos want to forgive Marcos and Estrada.

Yes, that's something we have known. I don't need a survey to tell me that. That's very obvious, and it's not in the national character to bear grudges for the longest time. I think Filipinos want to move on and rebuild their lives.

Detractors say martial law was the darkest part of our history.

It may be so. I am fully convinced that there were abuses, many mistakes not only during martial law, but also during the parliamentary system. It's impossible not to commit mistakes in 20 years. But I think there was a clear-cut vision for this country. At the end of the day no one will make excuses for the Philippines. Our situation right now is regionally, internationally pathetic. For example, the infrastructure program, the highways, the water system, rural electrification—*lahat yan* Marcos era. You can't play politics with that.

How do you think history will judge your father and martial law?

First of all, I can't second-guess history. I have stressed, time and again that, as a race, as a nation, we go back to the facts of martial law. During my father's administration, there was so much abuse. We should invite academics, scholars and genuine students of history to piece together what is post-war Philippine history. Funny, in some of the museums I visited, the whole section from 1965 to 1986 has somehow disappeared. Whether it is good or bad, it should be recorded, and certainly young people should know about it.

If I had to write the life of an Imee Marcos in sections...

I'm like John Travolta, who is famous every 20 years. My life changes every nine years. It's my mom who changes life every eight years, which is why her book is titled, "Octaves Of My Life." The first thing I remember is this house in San Juan and living here. I turned 10 after my father's election. After that, we moved to Malacañang.

People remember you as the jeans-clad Kabataang Barangay chairman, causing not a few arched eyebrows.

Yes, I think so. I am just one of nature's rebels. People question me. They are upset, but I am very impatient. I am outspoken. Neither of my parents is like this. My dad was arguably the most polite man on the planet.

Are you a prayerful person?

I am put off by the ostentatious religiosity that appears to be widespread in politics. I am a Religion major. I am an avid student of many, many religions and I think it is such an integral part of Philippine history. Unfortunately, experienced leaders are now jumping into prayer rallies. Am I prayerful? I don't like organizations.

Tell us about your sons.

I messed up Borgy's schedule. I asked him to come over to help me in the campaign, because there would be no way I could attend to the different engagements. Nineteen-year-old Borgy or Fernando Martin is in third year college, major in Masscom and minor in Religion. Second son F.R. Michael is 16, an actor and a golfer. Nobody will understand how that combination came about; he's a competitive golfer and is already back in NYU. Third son is 13-year-old Matthew, who is a sophomore at the International School. My relationship with my sons is fine. It can be difficult at times, because I am a single mom who is extremely busy.

How was your marriage with Tommy Manotoc, and why did it break up?

It was apparent from the beginning that Tommy and I had different personalities. Our respective family backgrounds would not jibe; the Manotocs are laid-back, versus my family, which is very driven. We just grew up differently. We were separated in 1996. But all these have passed. We are very much in touch because of the children. Tommy is a very hands-on parent. I consult him regarding the boys' schooling, and he spends a lot of time with them. The children are very important to both of us. Yes, Tommy is very much around and has a new family. I am also fond of my stepchildren both from Tommy's previous marriage, TJ and Mavis. Mavis is expecting her first child soon, and both call me Tita Imee.

And Tommy's kidnapping?

I honestly would not know, even Tommy would not talk about it. I asked him time and again, but he would not talk about it, rationalizing that we should leave that part of our lives behind us.

Is Imee Marcos projecting a certain image these days?

I am not an image creator. I am no Madonna. I just do what I do. I like new things, wear new stuff. *(Note: For this interview, Imee is wearing baby pink cotton wristbands, a fuchsia cotton shirt, and indigo jeans that she matches with a pink embroidered silk shoes. She changes into a pink kaftan blouse for the pictorial.)* I'm trying to lose weight; my pants won't fit. I was fed too well during the fiestas. I was always *puyat*, so I had a good excuse to eat a lot. Every January I embark on an ambitious gym, weight lifting and yoga program. Before the month ends, I'm no longer able to follow. Borgy, our "little model," keeps telling me that I eat dangerously.

Tell us about the sketching session with the UP Artists Circle.

When I heard that it would be a nude session, I freaked out. I got scared but I said okay, then asked for the reasons. They told me it was for fund-raising purposes. The session was not that long, say, three hours. I wanted to talk with them because I was getting bored. My cellphone kept ringing, too. But it was not as revealing as what should normally be revealed. I wore a typically long dress. My posing for the artists had nothing to do with campaigning. The UP is a special cause: first, it's UP. Second, it's for the cause of artists.

(Note: The sketching session was participated in by 25 artists and lasted for one hour and a half. Imee wore a sheer, off-white sheath.)

Which part of your body do you consider sexy?

I've gained weight these days. Politicking is not good for the figure, as I go

To page 7

Gov't files 622 cases vs 18 firms in tax credit scam

Story on PAGE A2

Makati principal tops Gintong Ilawan Awards

By Blanche S. Rivera

A FISHERMAN'S daughter has turned the tide for poor children in Makati City's public schools.

Teresita Arriola, principal of the Pembo Elementary School, remembers her unschooled father every single day that she teaches the underprivileged. And ev-

MAKATI/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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WHAT'S INSIDE

- Asia bans import of chickens from US — WORLD/A9
- Katipunan tree row: Raps poised vs Fernando — METRO /A23
- Stay neutral, troops told — ACROSS /A18

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Monday, February 9, 2004 ★★ 64 pages / 6 sections / vol. 19 / no. 63 P15 | website: www.inq7.net

Gov't wants peace with Reds by May

NDF says early accord to boost GMA candidacy

PRAYER FOR PEACE. President Macapagal, her peace process adviser Teresita Quintos Deles, and other Malacañang officials join a Mass for peace at the Edsa Shrine, hoping for a breakthrough in government talks with communist rebels. EPA/DENNIS SABANGAN

By Christian V. Esguerra

WITH THE resumption today of the long-stalled peace talks in the Norwegian capital of Oslo, the government wants to sign a final agreement with communist rebels before the May 10 elections.

As a gesture of goodwill, chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III said 24 political detainees are set to be released by the end of March. In return, the government wants the communist rebels to stop collecting permit-to-campaign fees from candidates in the May elections.

Luis Jalandoni, chair of the negotiating panel of the communist-led National Democratic Front, said President Macapagal-Arroyo might be rushing the peace accord to end the 35-year-old Marxist insurgency as a political leverage for her candidacy. Ms Macapagal is seeking a six-year term and is one of the six presidential candidates.

Whatever the real motivation of the President, the NDF is hoping for a genuine peace agreement, Jalandoni said in a telephone interview from the Netherlands yesterday.

Both the government and NDF panels are optimistic that the four-day talks sponsored by the Norwegian government would lead to the signing of a final peace agreement in three months.

"*Pagsisikapan natin* (We'll work on it)," Jalandoni said.

The NDF negotiator was reacting to the timetable proposed by Bello during a send-off Mass that Ms Macapagal attended yesterday morning at the Edsa Shrine in Mandaluyong.

Bello told reporters that "the expectation of the government panel is for the NDF to accept our proposed enhanced process which, we hope, will accelerate the peace process and, hopefully, get a final peace agreement before the May elections."

GOV'T WANTS/ A20

PNP gripe session with Ebdane gets political

By Christian V. Esguerra

RESTIVE police officers showed up at a "closed-door no-holds-barred" gripe session in Camp Crame, only to be scolded by their superiors.

The Philippine National Police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. himself urged the officers to speak up during the annual assembly of the Police Cavaliers Association Inc. (PCAI), a fraternity of Philippine Military Academy graduates in the PNP, more than a week ago, according to two top PNP officers.

But Ebdane and his top lieutenants were irked, at times losing their temper, as the officers outlined their complaints, said the two officers, who requested that they not be named.

The event fueled the griping officers' anger with Ebdane and strengthened the resolve of a considerable number of officers to junk President Macapagal-Arroyo in the May elections, said a senior superintendent who attended the two-hour meeting.

"With what Ebdane did," he

PNP GRIPE/ A6

More details of FPJ loves coming soon

By Cynthia D. Balana

JUICY details about his extramarital associations "will all come out eventually," movie actor and presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. said on Saturday, resigned to what he sees as the inevitable.

Even so, he asks two things of media: that his "loved ones" not be dragged into the limelight unnecessarily, and that he not be rushed into saying anything more.

"*Pag* private life, eventually *lalabas din naman lahat yan*. But let's not hurt people," Poe, who is running for president under the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, told the INQUIRER.

He was shooting his TV campaign commercial, "Bagong Umaga (New Morning)," with running mate, Sen. Loren Legarda, at

MORE/ A8

Presidential candidates should face off on economic issues

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

TIME is running out on Filipinos who refuse to face up to making hard choices in the May 10 elections.

Since the presidential aspirants filed their certificates of candidacy in early January, we have avoided grappling with the vexatious issues on the economy and the competence of candidates in running the country.

Four months in the run-up to the elections, the public agenda—as reflected in a scan of news websites in the Philippines—have been ossified over sterile issues, such as the demand for the resignation of Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos, the citizenship of opposition candidate Fernando Poe Jr., and the filing of criminal charges against Ricardo Manapat for alleged falsification of Poe's records in the National Archives.

Then, there is the nagging question in the public mind whether honest elections could be held at all. Only last week, the media were still reporting stories about coup conspiracies.

We should not be sidetracked any more by these issues at this late stage. Much time has been squandered on these minor issues.

Only a few things have crystallized during the past month. The presidential race has narrowed down to three rivals—President Macapagal-Arroyo, former Education Secretary Raul Roco and Poe—although there are indications that the field may yet be reduced to a two-person race.

The economy should be the crucial combat ground for the

PRESIDENTIAL/ A21

Palace hand seen in Ping sked foul-up

By Christine O. Avendaño

NOT AGAIN.

The camp of Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday cried foul as it accused Malacañang of causing the cancellation of a convention in Davao City where the presidential candidate was supposed to be the guest speaker on Friday.

PALACE/ A21

German pilot to fly museum plane to promote RP

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—For 12 months, German pilot Capt. Iren Dornier will fly a family heirloom across 52 countries to promote the Philippines as a tourism and investment destination.

Dornier's world tour, possibly the longest international campaign blitz ever made for the Philippines, will be via the Do-24ATT, now hailed as the first seaplane in the country.

The aircraft was unveiled on Saturday night at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here where Dornier's domestic airline company, South East Asian Airlines (Seair), has been serving 20 routes in the last nine years.

Designed and built in 1939 by Dornier's grandfather Claude, the aircraft and 200 similar models rescued more than 11,000 people at sea, mostly Europeans, during World War II.

Dornier, 45, got the plane back from the German museum Flugwerft Oberschleissheim where it had been lent.

The aircraft, which was originally called "Do-24," had been restored by Dornier and his team of Filipino engineers. It has been kept at the Seair hangar in the last 13 months since it arrived via the Subic Freeport in December 2002.

Nikos Gitsis, Seair director, said the company invested $6 million (P336 million) on the aircraft.

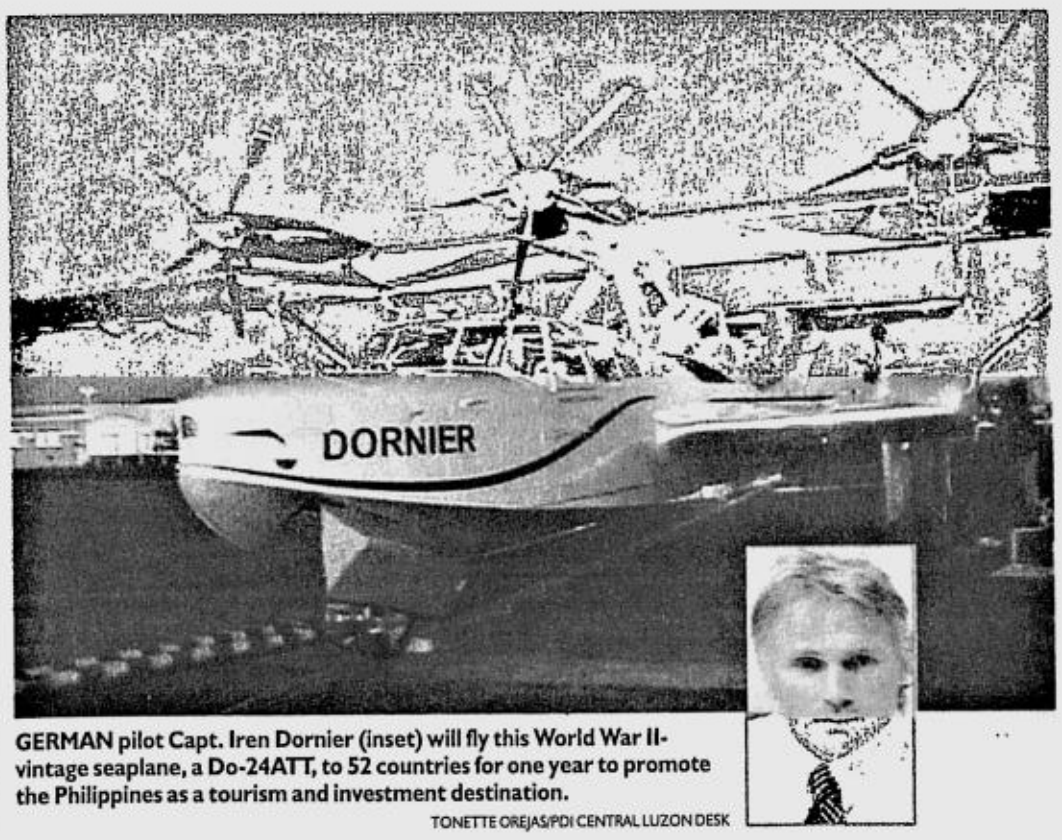
Now fitted with turbine engines, expanded wing and landing gear, Dornier said the aircraft would be one of the contributions of the Philippines to the world celebration of the centennial of the aviation industry.

Dornier said getting the aircraft from the museum and bringing it to this former American military base were "very difficult."

Gitsis said it was the centerpiece plane for the German museum. There it had been exhibited as an archetype of modern seaplanes, having been converted in 1971 into an amphibious aircraft.

Dornier also said it was a "lo-

GERMAN/ A20



GERMAN pilot Capt. Iren Dornier (inset) will fly this World War II-vintage seaplane, a Do-24ATT, to 52 countries for one year to promote the Philippines as a tourism and investment destination.

TONETTE OREJAS/PDI CENTRAL LUZON DESK

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern, Eastern and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/09/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

622 cases filed in tax credit scam

By Gil C. Cabacungan, Jr.

AS OF January this year, the government has filed 622 criminal cases against 18 companies involved in the multi-billion-peso tax credit scam, including five firms owned by businessman Faustino Chingkoe, for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, estafa and falsification of public documents.

In a report to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Finance Undersecretary Inocencio P. Ferrer Jr. said the 622 cases involved P1.2 billion worth of tax credit certificates.

Ferrer heads Special Presidential Task Force 156 which was formed to investigate and file cases against perpetrators of the tax credit scam.

Ferrer said 90 of the cases are currently on trial in the Sandiganbayan, while the remaining 532 are pending at the Office of the Ombudsman.

The cases are on top of the 145 criminal cases involving eight companies and P1.3 billion in tax credits filed by the Department of Finance before the task force was created in 1999.

The cases of four companies are still pending with the Sandiganbayan. These involve Diamond Knitting Corp. (P168.08 million), JAM Transit Inc. (P43.03 million), R. Transport Corp. (P12.76 million) and AMA Transport Services Corp. (P4.39 million).

At the Ombudsman, the cases of 14 companies are also pending. These include those of Grand Transport Corp. (P17.36 million), Jam Liner (P6.06 million), Liberty Transport (Taxicab) Inc. (P24.26 million), Car Inc. (P25.59 million), Baliwag Transit (P28.29 million), Juaymah-Maureen Transport (P9.16 million), Lamborghini Transit Inc. (P18.227 million), Florida Liner (P14.117 million), Filstar Textile Industrial Inc. (P228.36 million), Texasia Inc. (P83.32 million), Batangas Laguna Tayabas Bus Co. (P18.9 million), Allstar Spinning Inc. (P285.12 million), New Alliance Thread Co. Inc. (P207.11 million) and Express Colour Industries Inc. (P46.9 million).

Ferrer said Chingkoe has five companies in the list—Diamond Knitting, Filstar, Allstar, New Alliance and Express Colour—which have been been found to have illegally secured and sold tax credit certificates.

"The task force has covered at least 70 percent of the Chingkoe group of companies in terms of the amount of tax credits secured from 1994 to 1998," Ferrer said.

The government is now hot on the trail of six more Chingkoe companies involved in the scam, he added.

The tax credit scam involves the sale of tax credits by companies authorized by the government to have them to firms that have no legal right to use them.

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THE LANDMARK

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'Manapat report would have pitted Senate vs SC'

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE SENATE committee report recommending the filing of charges against former National Archives chief Ricardo Manapat for fabricating documents against opposition candidate Fernando Poe Jr. could have pitted the Senate against the Supreme Court.

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday warned the Senate would have been "treading on risky ground" since the Senate report and the Supreme Court were both dealing with the question of Poe's citizenship.

The Senate committee on electoral reforms and constitutional amendments had concluded that the documents submitted by lawyer Victorino Fornier were fabrications just like the microfilm rolls that Manapat had claimed he discovered and which contained Fornier's documents against Poe.

The committee then recommended the slapping of charges against Manapat and Fornier for falsifying documents to make it appear Poe was not a natural-born Filipino.

The adoption of the Senate committee report, however, was blocked on Friday by the pro-administration Senate majority, to the chagrin of the minority bloc who insisted otherwise.

On the other hand, the Supreme Court is now reviewing Fornier's petition to disqualify Poe, which the Commission on Elections had earlier dismissed .

Arroyo said there would be no problem if the high court would declare that Poe was a natural-born Filipino and, thus, is qualified to run in the May presidential election.

"But supposing the Supreme Court returns a verdict disqualifying FPJ on the basis of public documents before it, the ultimate consequence of the Senate committee report would be at variance with the Supreme Court decision," he said. "The Senate cannot afford to be engulfed in this kind of quagmire."

Arroyo said the legislature "should step out in matters which are essentially judicial and not legislative in nature," adding that Poe's citizenship issue was "clearly a judicial and not legislative issue."

"The courts are better fit to judge that, not Congress which by its very character is partisan," Arroyo said in a statement.

As this developed, the minority bloc reiterated yesterday that the Senate report was deemed adopted.

Senate committee chair Sen. Edgardo Angara said the body will "now proceed to implement the recommendations made in the report, including the filing of criminal and administrative charges against Manapat and Fornier."

Sin was being generous to Roco, retorts Palace

MALACAÑANG yesterday shrugged off Jaime Cardinal Sin's virtual endorsement of presidential candidate Raul Roco, saying the retired but still powerful and outspoken leader of the Catholic Church was widely known to be generous with his blessings.

"What we know is that the cardinal wishes everybody well and that he meets all visitors properly," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye told RMN radio.

Asked whether the President was alarmed by the cardinal's statement, Bunye said the President is confident more people would support her in the May elections because of her performance.

After visiting the retired archbishop of Manila at his Villa San Miguel residence in Mandaluyong City, Roco quoted Sin as telling him: "Pray that the Lord will work his will through you. I hope you win."

But Roco himself interpreted Sin's words as a "pastor's blessing" rather than an endorsement of his candidacy. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Indonesia pledges to support RP's OIC bid

INDONESIA'S support has rekindled hopes the Philippines' bid for observer status in the Organization of the Islamic Conference will finally be granted.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Albert said that during her official visit to Jakarta on Thursday she was assured by her counterpart, Foreign Minister Noer Hassan Wirayuda, of Indonesia's support for the Philippines' observer status application.

Manila hopes to be accepted as an OIC observer by July when the 56-member aggrupation holds its annual conference in Istanbul, Turkey.

Albert told Wirayuda the Philippines looks up to Indonesia's leadership in the OIC as chair of the group's Committee of the Eight.

The Philippines formally filed its application for observer status during the OIC foreign ministers' summit in Tehran in May 2003.

Manila hopes the Istanbul meeting would result in positive action on the country's application, together with those of other nations.

During the 10th OIC Summit in Kuala Lumpur last October, the Philippines failed to have its application acted upon despite the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo who was invited to address the gathering.

The OIC also failed to act on similar applications from Russia, South Africa and Ghana as the summit focused on the rehabilitation of war-torn Iraq.

In 1977, the OIC gave the Moro National Liberation Front observer status as the representative of the Filipino Muslim community.

Wirayuda assured Albert of Jakarta's continued assistance to the Philippines' efforts to find lasting peace in Mindanao. Indonesia played a key role in the signing of the peace agreement between the Philippine government and the MNLF in 1996 and maintains a keen interest in the progress of the peace process in Mindanao.

In a separate meeting with Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, Albert expressed the Philippines' gratitude for the continuing close relations between the two countries.

Albert said the close relationship was "reflective of the warm friendship between Presidents Megawati and Macapagal." *Jerome Aning*

Activist would leave streets to get behind solon's desk

By Norman Bordadora

"I MAKE this look good."

Or at least Teddy Casiño intends to try if the left-leaning party-list group Bayan Muna gathers enough votes to grab a third seat in the House of Representatives in the May elections.

After more than a decade of turning himself into one of the more familiar faces in the streets demanding workers' rights or the resignation of corrupt officials, Casiño is ready to join two other "progressive" leaders in Bayan Muna's quest for party-list seats in an otherwise "reactionary" Congress.

"Because we can't always be in the streets; we can't always remain as lobbyists," Casiño told the INQUIRER, when asked to explain the exodus of militant leaders such as himself from the front lines of protest marches to desks in the legislature.

"Congress provides us with an opportunity to bring the people's issues into the mainstream. Even in reactionary institutions like Congress, there is space for doing good and serving the people," Casiño said.

Aside from Casiño, Bayan Muna is fielding incumbent Rep. Satur Ocampo and Caloocan City councilor Nathanael Santiago as its three nominees for party-list seats.

Ocampo is a former spokesperson of the communist National Democratic Front. Santiago has been an activist since his student days as head of the League of Filipino Students.

"Bayan Muna has proven the value of having representatives in Congress. They have proposed bills, authored resolutions and sponsored projects worthwhile to the marginalized sectors which comprise the majority of Bayan's constituents," Casiño said.

He said that most of Bayan Muna's pork barrel under the Priority Development Assistance Fund went into the construction of 110 school buildings, 174 multi-purpose halls and 109 water systems.

"These were in places I'd never even heard of before, places and sectors totally neglected by the government," Casiño said.

As for Bayan Muna's chances of duplicating its record 1.7-million votes garnered in 2001 which made it the top party-list group, Casiño said the party's track record would help it cancel out the disadvantage of no longer being in the administration coalition.

"Bayan Muna is now a more established party, consistently visible and with a good track record in terms of legislative work and grassroots projects. It also has more allies and friends," Casiño said.

"Ka Satur is really the most respected among us. Nath, on the other hand, is *maginoo pero medyo bastos*(gentlemanly but crude). *Ako naman, pa-cute na palaban*(While I am cutely aggressive)," Casiño said in jest.

"The cast is complete," he added.

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Terror link in the way of talks

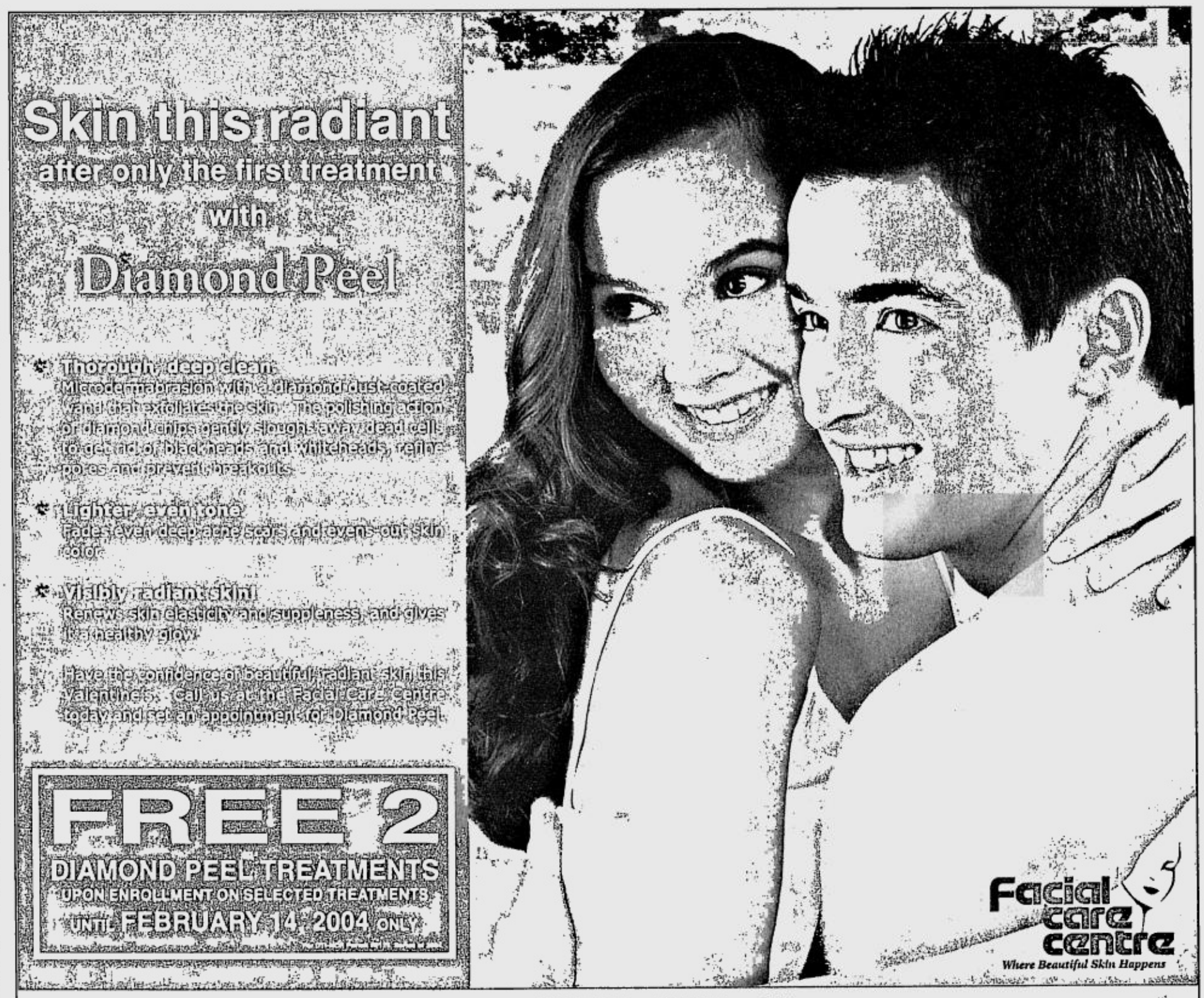
DAVAO CITY—The resumption of peace talks between the government and Muslim separatist rebels may be stymied by suspected links between the latter group and the regional militant network Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), a top military official said Sunday.

Government peace negotiators said JI "would remain to be a continuing major concern" that may affect the talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), military chief of staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia said.

"We have an ongoing mission pertaining to the JI," Garcia told reporters here after meeting with an MILF panel enforcing a cease-fire pact with the government.

The government is still trying to establish whether members of JI—the group thought to be responsible for the October 2002 Bali, Indonesia bombing—were training in MILF camps in Mindanao, he said.

The MILF had earlier denied having links with the JI, said to be the Southeast Asian arm of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terror network. *AFP*



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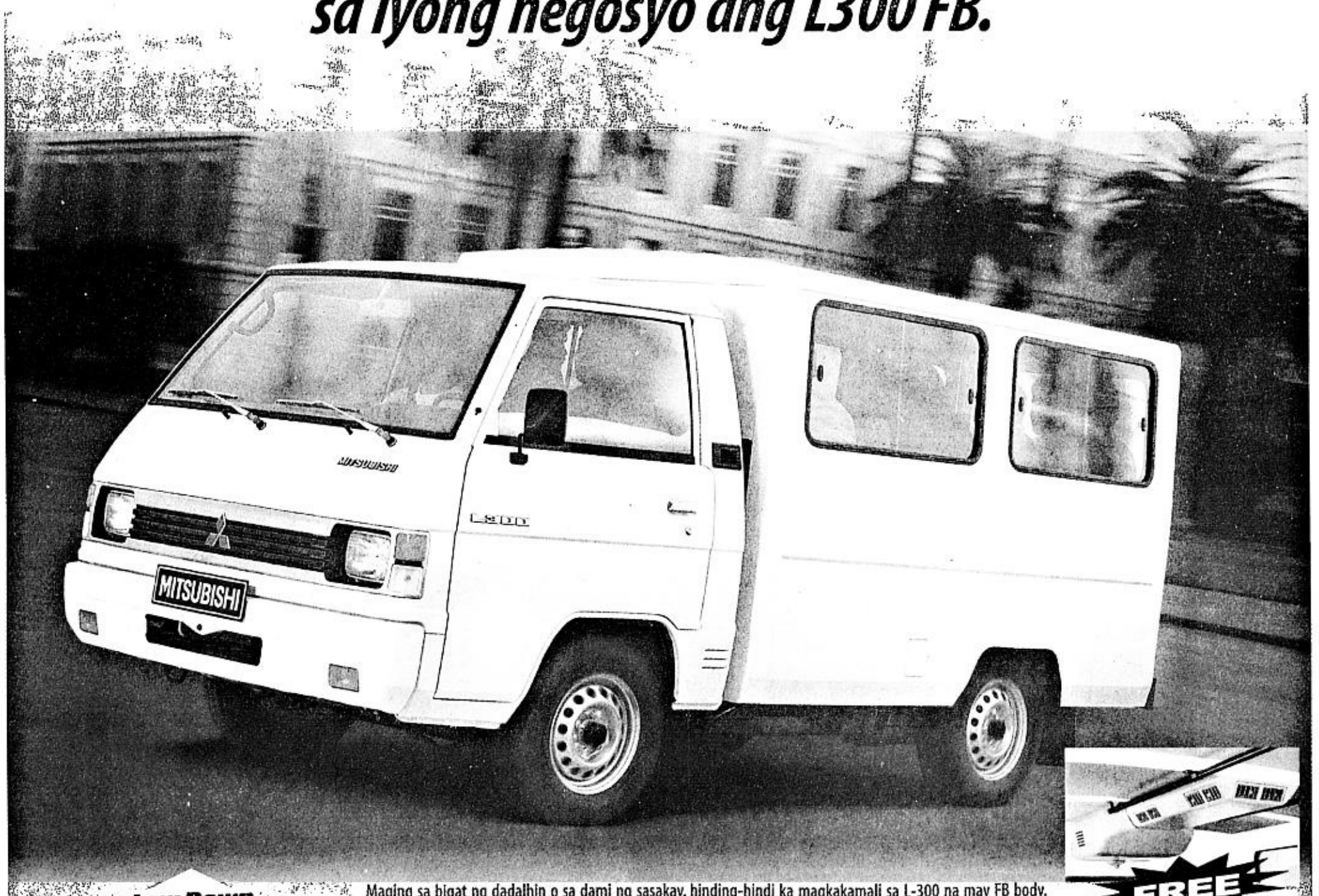

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JDV: Deep divisions to blame for Senate's poor showing

By Carlito Pablo

DEEP-SEATED divisions in the Senate are to blame for the chamber's below par performance since the 12th Congress in 2001.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. made the observation as he agreed with most congressmen that the Senate has failed to "deliver," especially in the field of legislation.

De Venecia noted that 170 national bills passed by the House of Representatives, like the proposed railway modernization measure, went for naught after the Senate failed to act on them.

Another 810 local bills sponsored by individual congressmen to benefit their districts, like the upgrading of schools and clinics, which were passed by the House and referred to the Senate, also did not make it into law.

"The Senate is not only divided between the administration and the opposition," De Venecia said over the weekend, "even the administration and opposition blocs themselves are divided."

De Venecia noted that while Sen. Franklin Drilon heads the majority bloc as Senate President, the administration bloc has sub-groupings like Sen. Manuel Villar's bloc.

On the other side of the aisle, the opposition is divided down the middle between the factions of Senators Edgardo Angara and Panfilo Lacson.

Asked to assess Drilon's performance as head of the upper chamber, De Venecia said: "There are also factions in the House but we are able to unite these groups when it comes to lawmaking."

Congressmen led by House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II (Lakas, Mandaluyong) have threatened to campaign against reelectionist senators, except Sen. Robert Barbers, after the Senate sat on their pet bills.

The Senate and House recently clashed over the proposed P864.8-billion 2004 national budget, after the representatives changed their minds and decided to reenact the 2003 P804-million budget instead.

The congressmen said this was to lower the projected budget deficit by P60 billion, after projections for increased revenues did not materialize because measures remained pending.

One of these measures is the proposed indexation of the so-called sin taxes on tobacco and alcohol products.

Rep. Herminio Teves (Lakas, Negros Oriental), vice chair of the House ways and means committee, said the tax measure would have raised P7 billion in additional revenues for 2004.

The passage of the measure has been stalled in the House, prompting suspicions the influential alcohol and tobacco lobby had the bill shelved in exchange for campaign funds for the May 10 elections.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri had earlier charged that powerful lobbies were blocking the passage of key revenue measures pending before Congress.

Last October, then Finance Secretary Jose Camacho wrote Congress to point out that the government has been losing at least P10 billion a year since 1999 with Congress' continued failure to approve the tax indexation measure.

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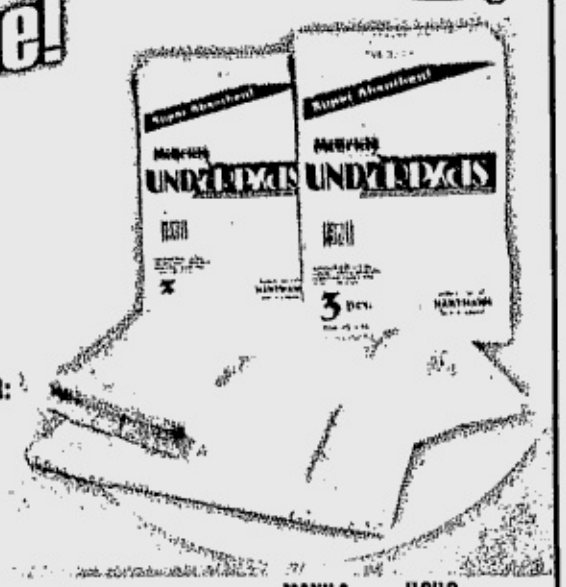

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JDV: Deep divisions to blame for Senate's poor showing

By Carlito Pablo

DEEP-SEATED divisions in the Senate are to blame for the chamber's below par performance since the 12th Congress in 2001.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. made the observation as he agreed with most congressmen that the Senate has failed to "deliver," especially in the field of legislation.

De Venecia noted that 170 national bills passed by the House of Representatives, like the proposed railway modernization measure, went for naught after the Senate failed to act on them.

Another 810 local bills sponsored by individual congressmen to benefit their districts, like the upgrading of schools and clinics, which were passed by the House and referred to the Senate, also did not make it into law.

"The Senate is not only divided between the administration and the opposition," De Venecia said over the weekend, "even the administration and opposition blocs themselves are divided."

De Venecia noted that while Sen. Franklin Drilon heads the majority bloc as Senate President, the administration bloc has sub-groupings like Sen. Manuel Villar's bloc.

On the other side of the aisle, the opposition is divided down the middle between the factions of Senators Edgardo Angara and Panfilo Lacson.

Asked to assess Drilon's performance as head of the upper chamber, De Venecia said: "There are also factions in the House but we are able to unite these groups when it comes to lawmaking."

Congressmen led by House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II (Lakas, Mandaluyong) have threatened to campaign against reelectionist senators, except Sen. Robert Barbers, after the Senate sat on their pet bills.

The Senate and House recently clashed over the proposed P864.8-billion 2004 national budget, after the representatives changed their minds and decided to reenact the 2003 P804-million budget instead.

The congressmen said this was to lower the projected budget deficit by P60 billion, after projections for increased revenues did not materialize because measures remained pending.

One of these measures is the proposed indexation of the so-called sin taxes on tobacco and alcohol products.

Rep. Herminio Teves (Lakas, Negros Oriental), vice chair of the House ways and means committee, said the tax measure would have raised P7 billion in additional revenues for 2004.

The passage of the measure has been stalled in the House, prompting suspicions the influential alcohol and tobacco lobby had the bill shelved in exchange for campaign funds for the May 10 elections.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri had earlier charged that powerful lobbies were blocking the passage of key revenue measures pending before Congress.

Last October, then Finance Secretary Jose Camacho wrote Congress to point out that the government has been losing at least P10 billion a year since 1999 with Congress' continued failure to approve the tax indexation measure.

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From page A1

told the INQUIRER "nobody will now care to speak his mind. "We'll just wait for the next president and hope that he'll bring back professionalism in the police organization."

The senior superintendent said many of the restive officers had expressed support for Sen. Panfilo Lacson's presidential bid during informal meetings.

A chief superintendent identified with the Macapagal administration confirmed this, claiming that about "30 percent" of all PMA graduates in the PNP were solidly behind Lacson, a former PNP chief.

"They say Lacson has a checkered past, but who doesn't have one?" he asked. "To us, he's the lesser evil among the presidential candidates."

Director Avelino Razon Jr., PCAI president, yesterday denied that griping officers had been scolded during the late-night meeting at Camp Crame's multi-purpose hall.

He said some officers were just trying to create the impression that there was animosity within the PNP ranks.

"It's a continuing discussion to allow officers to ventilate their concerns," he said, denying that Ebdane had scolded anybody. "The PNP is now taking concrete steps to address these."

Razon said the PNP leadership would conduct more of these gripe sessions to avoid any unrest among officers.

But for the griping PMAyers, Ebdane came on too strong.

"They were scolded the way kids are scolded by their older brothers," said a chief superintendent. "But they were only telling the truth and Ebdane had told them to do so."

Shortly before the PCAI meeting, the two sources said some "disgruntled" PMA classes had planned to withdraw from the fraternity in protest of the "heavy politicking" in the PNP.

Razon said the threat was only a rumor. One of the sources said some PCAI members were still planning to push through with the plan.

At least six senior superintendents, representing PMA Classes 1975, 1981, 1982 and 1983, spoke of a variety of complaints resulting from the "culture of vengeance" and "*bata-bata* system" (favoritism) in the PNP, the senior superintendent, who attended the meeting, said.

Senior Supt. James Melad, who was identified with Lacson, allegedly received a dressing down from Ebdane when he took the microphone and complained about a "special exam." The PNP chief had purportedly set the test exclusively for his "boys" lined up for promotion to chief superintendent.

The source said the test had already been given late last year, but Ebdane allegedly still wanted to promote some of his men.

Melad suggested that all officers up for promotion be allowed to take the exam, not only candidates for the rank of director, the official said.

Ebdane, instead of addressing the concern, picked on Melad's association with Lacson. Melad had served in the intelligence unit of Lacson's Police Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, which has been abolished.

"We were surprised that he suddenly turned personal," said one of the sources. "All the while we thought he was open to suggestions."

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PNP gripe session with Ebdane gets political

From page A1

told the INQUIRER "nobody will now care to speak his mind. "We'll just wait for the next president and hope that he'll bring back professionalism in the police organization."

The senior superintendent said many of the restive officers had expressed support for Sen. Panfilo Lacson's presidential bid during informal meetings.

A chief superintendent identified with the Macapagal administration confirmed this, claiming that about "30 percent" of all PMA graduates in the PNP were solidly behind Lacson, a former PNP chief.

"They say Lacson has a checkered past, but who doesn't have one?" he asked. "To us, he's the lesser evil among the presidential candidates."

Director Avelino Razon Jr., PCAI president, yesterday denied that griping officers had been scolded during the late-night meeting at Camp Crame's multi-purpose hall.

He said some officers were just trying to create the impression that there was animosity within the PNP ranks.

"It's a continuing discussion to allow officers to ventilate their concerns," he said, denying that Ebdane had scolded anybody. "The PNP is now taking concrete steps to address these."

Razon said the PNP leadership would conduct more of these gripe sessions to avoid any unrest among officers.

But for the griping PMAyers, Ebdane came on too strong.

"They were scolded the way kids are scolded by their older brothers," said a chief superintendent. "But they were only telling the truth and Ebdane had told them to do so."

Shortly before the PCAI meeting, the two sources said some "disgruntled" PMA classes had planned to withdraw from the fraternity in protest of the "heavy politicking" in the PNP.

Razon said the threat was only a rumor. One of the sources said some PCAI members were still planning to push through with the plan.

At least six senior superintendents, representing PMA Classes 1975, 1981, 1982 and 1983, spoke of a variety of complaints resulting from the "culture of vengeance" and "*bata-bata* system" (favoritism) in the PNP, the senior superintendent, who attended the meeting, said.

Senior Supt. James Melad, who was identified with Lacson, allegedly received a dressing down from Ebdane when he took the microphone and complained about a "special exam." The PNP chief had purportedly set the test exclusively for his "boys" lined up for promotion to chief superintendent.

The source said the test had already been given late last year, but Ebdane allegedly still wanted to promote some of his men.

Melad suggested that all officers up for promotion be allowed to take the exam, not only candidates for the rank of director, the official said.

Ebdane, instead of addressing the concern, picked on Melad's association with Lacson. Melad had served in the intelligence unit of Lacson's Police Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, which has been abolished.

"We were surprised that he suddenly turned personal," said one of the sources. "All the while we thought he was open to suggestions."

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Drivers biggest drug abusers–Lina

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. said the transport industry is the sector most badly affected by the illegal drug problem.

Lina said records culled from rehabilitation centers showed that drivers were the most common users of prohibited drugs. He said this was especially true of long-haul drivers who carry goods between distant points throughout the country.

"They use illegal drugs, particularly shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), to keep awake during the long drives. Unfortunately, most of them unwittingly end up as drug dependents," Lina said.

Lina, concurrently Dangerous Drug Board chair, said that in response to the findings, a number of transport groups recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the DILG, the departments of Transportation and Communication, Health, and Justice, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the DDB to form Manibela Kontra Droga (Makondroga).

Lina said the government, through Makondroga, aims to mobilize some one million drivers, conductors and operators to help in the campaign against illegal drugs.

"The MOU formalizes the common vision of government and private anti-illegal drugs organizations to cleanse the transport sector of drug users and to prevent the commission of drug-related crimes in the streets," Lina said.

Under the MOU, Makondroga shall assist the government in removing from public roads drivers found positive for illegal drug use, and shall enshrine public safety and convenience as primordial motives for drug-free driving.

The DILG head said Makondroga's launching is timed for the government's renewed and heightened anti-drug campaign this month. February is also the month the government will launch Lakbay Kontra Droga, a caravan which shall cover the entire country to educate the citizenry on the dangers of illegal drugs. *Nelson E Flores*

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PROMO MECHANICS:
1. Every purchase of Magic Sing Premium Videoke Microphone from participating dealers & outlets within the promo period entitles the buyer to join the Magic Sing Premium "WIN & FLY" Raffle Promo. Promo period is from February 1 to June 30, 2004. Promo is valid for subscribers of Smart, Globe, Sun Cellular, Talk 'N Text & Touch Mobile.
2. To join, buyer sends the following message to 2299:
(1) Key in: MSPREMIUM<space>PROMO<space>name/address/age/gender/Warranty card serial no/purchase date <mmddyy>/store/location of store
MSPREMIUM PROMO/Juan de la Cruz/119 Moralco Ave.Pasig/25/M/04-34561BI020104/ABC Store/MAKATI
(2) Send to 2299
(3) Buyer must comply with joining procedure. After sending entry, buyer will receive the following reply:
Entry received: Tnx 4 joining ol Magic Sing Premium Win & Fly Raffle Promo. Ur entry is subject to validation. Promo period is from Feb. 1-June 30, 2004. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0328 series of 2004. Every msg sent to 2299 will cost P2.50
3. Send your entry anytime during the promo period. Please take note of the deadlines per monthly draw. Only messages received within stated time frame will be considered. Every message sent to 2299 will cost P2.50.
4. A Magic Sing Premium Warranty Card Serial Number can be used only once. Sending entries with the same Warranty Card Serial Number will not qualify for more entries. The Warranty Card Number refers to the 8-digit alpha numeric found on the Magic Sing Premium unit you bought. One warranty card serial number sent to 2299 is equivalent to one raffle entry only.
5. Electronic Monthly draws and the Grand draw will be scheduled on the following dates under the supervision of a DTI representative:

a) Monthly Draws

Monthly Draws	Valid For Entries Received
March 10, 2004	Feb. 1- 29, 2004
April 14, 2004	Mar. 1- 31, 2004
May 12, 2004	Apr. 1- 30, 2004
June 9, 2004	May 1- 31, 2004
July 14, 2004	June 1- 30, 2004

b) Grand Draw

Grand Draw	Valid For Entries Received
July 14, 2004	Feb. 1 - June 30, 2004

Draw Venues and Time: G2K Corporation 3/F, Richbelt Terraces, #19 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, M.M. Tel. Nos.: 723-2492 • 725-1724 Time: 2:00 p.m.

6. Prizes as follows:
a. MONTHLY DRAW PRIZES : Two (2) winners per Local Tour Destination Package for two(2) worth P 14,000. Package includes round-trip tickets & 3 days, 2 nights hotel accommodation inclusive of daily breakfast.
b. GRAND DRAW PRIZES :
- Four (4) winners of Seoul, Korea Tour Packages for 2 plus US$200 pocket money. Package includes round-trip tickets for 2, 4 days, 3 nights hotel accommodation with daily breakfast & city tour.
- Eight(8) winners of Asian Tour packages for 2 plus US$100 pocket money. Package includes round-trip tickets for 2, 3 days, 2 nights hotel accommodation with daily breakfast & city tour.

. Boracay (2)	. Palawan (2)	. Cebu (2)	. Davao (2)	. Davao (2)	. Korea (4)
. Bohol (2)	. Boracay (2)	. Palawan (2)	. Cebu (2)	. Cebu (2)	. Singapore (2)
. Fort Ilocandia (2)	. Bohol (2)	. Boracay (2)	. Palawan (2)	. Boracay (2)	. Kuala Lumpur (2)
					. Hong Kong (2)
					. Bangkok (2)

7. Non-winning entries for the monthly draw will not qualify for the succeeding monthly draws. Both winning and non-winning entries per monthly draw are qualified for the Grand Draw. The 5th monthly draw and the Grand Draw will be done simultaneously.
8. A winner can only win once per draw. If a participant's name is drawn more than once in one draw, the prize of the bigger value will be awarded.
9. Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
10. The 20% tax for prizes exceeding P10,000 will be shouldered by In-A-Jiffy Enterprises.
11. Securing travel documents & other related expenses shall be shouldered by the winner.
12. Winners will be notified via cell phone and registered mail and shall be published in the Philippine Star & Philippine Daily Inquirer within two (2) weeks from date of draw. Winners will receive a registered mail from In-A-Jiffy Enterprises on how and where he/she can claim his/ her prize.

NCR WINNERS: Magic Sing Premium showroom - G/F Richbelt Terraces (Left Wing), # 19 Annapolis St. Greenhills, San Juan M.M.

PROVINCIAL: Winners will receive a registered mail from In-A-Jiffy Enterprises on how he/she can claim his/her prize at the store or nearest reseller identified in the registered mail.

GRAND PRIZE: Winners must claim their prize at the Magic Sing Showroom, G/F Richbelt Terraces (left wing), #19 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan M.M.

13. Prizes shall be claimed upon presentation of the following:
. Valid ID with picture (Company ID, Driver's License, Voter's ID, SSS)
. Warranty card of Magic Sing Premium Videoke Microphone. In the case that the Warranty Card is lost, winner must show the actual Magic Sing Premium unit containing the warranty card serial number indicated in the entry.
. Notification Letter from IN-A-JIFFY ENTERPRISES stating his/her winning prize.
. Proof of Purchase (Official Receipt and/or Sales Invoice)
14. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited with prior approval of DTI. Tour packages are valid for six (6) months from date of issuance.
15. Employees of In-A-Jiffy Enterprises, G2K Corporation, Magic Sing dealers & outlets, H.A.S. Communications, their ad and PR agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from this promotion.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.:0328, Series of 2004

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More details of FPJ loves coming soon

From page A1

the Parks and Wildlife Office area in Quezon City. Earlier, he finished filming two 30-second television commercials, titled "Basketball" and "Palengke."

"Ang gusto ko lang paabutin sa mga tao ay kung ano lang ang gusto kong paabutin sa mga tao (I would like people to know only what I am prepared to tell them) for the moment," he said.

Last week, the actor publicly admitted for the first time that he had a child out of wedlock with movie starlet Ana Marin. The boy, named Ron-An, is now 22 years old.

Poe was offended by subsequent reports describing Ron-an as "illegitimate."

The admission caused old rumors to resurface, specifically regarding two more alleged children by other women. He refused to discuss these, apart from saying he was aggrieved by what came across as an attack on his family, in the name of "transparency."

Poe maintained that what happened in the past had no bearing on his bid for the highest position in the land. Still, he said he would rather stay calm and not hit back. He did appear relaxed during the interview, speaking softly and thoughtfully.

He said it was in his nature to talk "only when necessary"—and he never found it necessary to "hurt other people and destroy their reputation," even if they were rivals—in this case, in the presidential race.

If he had to talk at all, Poe said, he would dwell on "more important issues," for instance, "how to put food on every Filipino family's table."

Media critics

Poe said he did not mind critics needling him on his lack of experience in governance and academic credentials, because in the end he would be judged only by the people. What he mainly wants to do, he stressed, is to unite a divided country.

Talk of his "infamous temper" was simply baseless, Poe swore, saying he always made an effort to "stay cool." He definitely isn't a snob either, he said. "Ask the movie people; ask the movie reporters."

It obviously irked him that he was reported to have raised his voice, and even shouted, during an interview by the Senate media at Legarda's birthday party on Jan. 28.

"I reacted, not to the press but *doon sa kasama ko* (to my companion)," he said briskly. In fact, he added, he granted an interview to the reporter that he supposedly growled at.

Because he almost always does not elaborate on his statements, he is often misquoted or misunderstood, he said. "*Pero OK lang* (but that's OK)." All the unkind words being hurled against him was part of the public scrutiny that came with his bid, he explained.

He is optimistic that the gap would close once the people start seeing more of him on the campaign trail.

Overall, media have been fair to him, according to the actor—even the INQUIRER, whose columnists have been persistent in their criticism. "*Nahe-headline naman ako* (I make the headlines) sa INQUIRER," he said, grinning. "*Wala akong* (I have no) complaints."

Platform

Tomorrow, the start of the campaign period, Poe promised to introduce the members of his economic team, and reveal his platform of government. He is prepared to face "any sector of society" to explain his platform, he said.

Regarding popularity surveys, he is pragmatic at best, even if these have favored him from the day he announced his candidacy. Because surveys change from time to time, he explained, they are not the ultimate gauge of victory. "Just because I'm leading in the surveys does not make me all that confident. I still have to work hard."

What he is confident about is that the opposition will be united in the end. And so he continues to meet with another opposition presidential candidate, Sen. Panfilo Lacson. "*May direct line kami ni* (I have a direct line to) Ping," is how he put it.

He would welcome the possibility of Lacson withdrawing from the race, Poe said. "*Pareho kami ni Senator Lacson ng gusto* (We want the same thing)," he said. "That is, for only one to run."

Which one is another thing he cannot be rushed into saying. In the meantime, he proceeds with his courtship of the electorate. The TV commercials start airing tomorrow.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, February 9, 2004
5th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1K 8:1-7, 9-13
Gospel: Mk 6:53-56

Having crossed the lake, Jesus and his disciples came ashore at Gennesaret where they tied up the boat. As soon as they landed, people recognized Jesus and ran to spread the news throughout the countryside. Wherever he was they brought to him the sick lying on their mats. And wherever he went, to villages, towns or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplace and begged him to let them touch just the fringe of his cloak. And all who touched him were cured.

Commentary

Today's reading stands in strong contrast to tomorrow's. Today Jesus is among his own people, the Galileans; they recognize him and flock to him. But tomorrow a delegation from Jerusalem, the Judean capital, will arrive, and from there the hostility of the religious leaders will begin. It will lead to his death.

A preacher known to me was inclined to boast a little when he got a standing ovation after one of his sermons. A friend of mine said to him, "There's something wrong here: Jesus preached and they crucified him; you preach and they give you a standing ovation!"

Popularity is a fickle goddess: the crowd that cheered "Hosanna!" to Jesus were crying "Crucify him!" a few days later. Jesus went through both; the rest of us, with few exceptions, would settle for just Hosanna! Popularity looks like glory, and it is a kind of glory: someone called it "glory's small change." There is the personality type described as 'the pleaser.' Such a person will never challenge you; they rely too much on your good opinion of them. But it backfires; most people would prefer that you said what you thought. "He more had pleased us had he pleased us less."

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Asian nations ban chickens from US

HANOI—Asian nations moved Sunday to suspend poultry imports from the United States after bird flu was detected there, as China reported more outbreaks of the disease that has killed 18 people in the region.

About 12,000 chickens were destroyed in the northeastern US state of Delaware on a farm that raises chickens to sell at live markets in New York, prompting Japan, Singapore, South Korea to slap import bans on all US poultry.

Officials suspect the farm's birds were infected in New York, where there have been similar outbreaks of avian flu in recent years, and said tests would be carried out this week on other farms in the area.

"This isolated case should have little impact on the Delmarva (regional) poultry industry, providing it does not spread to other flocks," Delaware Agriculture Secretary Michael Scuse told local media.

Meanwhile, China's Ministry of Agriculture confirmed that outbreaks of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of bird flu had been found in Hubei, Henan and Jiangxi provinces.

The ministry also said it had received reports of new suspected bird flu cases in Yunnan and Gansu provinces, bringing the total number of confirmed and suspected bird flu outbreaks across China to 31 in 13 regions.

Despite being one of a number of countries accused of initially covering up the presence of bird flu, China Vice Premier Hui Liangyu has vowed to provide "accurate, correct and timely" information on all outbreaks.

Beijing, however, insists that no humans have been infected with the disease.

In human terms, Vietnam, where 13 people have died, is the worst affected of the 10 Asian nations tackling outbreaks of bird flu. Thailand, where five people have died, is the only other country to have confirmed human infections.

Cambodian health officials, however, said Sunday a 24-year-old woman who died last week is suspected of being infected with bird flu.

The woman is the sixth person in Cambodia suspected of being infected with H5N1. The other five have been cleared of carrying the disease.

"We and the WHO are investigating ... We suspect that she died of bird flu because she was in contact with ill chickens," said Ly Sovann, director of Cambodia's Communicable Disease Control Department.

Meanwhile, the WHO said the bird flu virus has not yet changed into a form capable of easy human-to-human transmission after further tests on suspect cases in Vietnam.

The UN agency had earlier said it was "possible" that two sisters had caught the disease from their brother, sparking fears that the virus had mutated into a far more lethal form. *AFP*

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Kerry pockets Michigan, Washington, slams Bush

DETROIT, Michigan—US Sen. John Kerry scored big wins in Democratic Party presidential caucuses in Michigan and Washington state, then stepped up his attack on George W. Bush, accusing him of taking the country down an "extreme path." Kerry, 60, a Vietnam war hero and four-term senator from Massachusetts, moved a step closer to the Democratic presidential nomination and a showdown with Bush in November by cruising to victory Saturday in Michigan and Washington, the biggest states to vote so far.

Kerry, in remarks prepared for delivery at a dinner in Richmond, Virginia, welcomed the results in Michigan and Washington and looked past his Democratic opponents to tell his audience "George Bush's days are numbered and change is coming to America.

"Abroad and at home, all across the board, America faces a fundamental choice in this election," he said.

"Will we stand with the mainstream values that have defined our country? Or will we continue on the extreme path of the Bush administration, a path fundamentally at odds with our history and our hopes?"

Kerry is seeking to deliver a knockout blow to his rivals for the nomination in contests Tuesday in Virginia and another southern state, Tennessee.

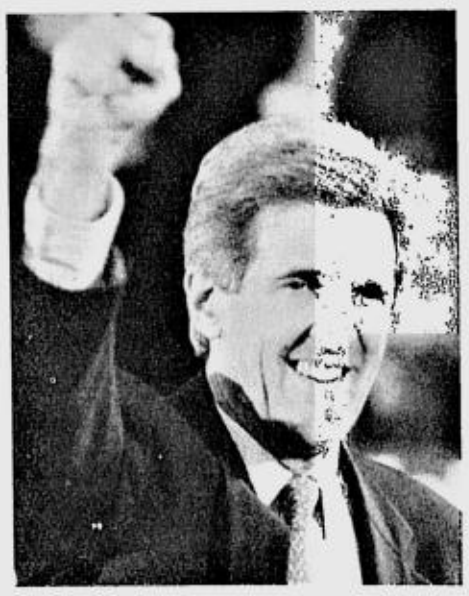
With all precincts reporting in the northern industrial state of Michigan, Kerry had a commanding 52 percent of the vote. Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean was next with 17 percent followed by North Carolina Sen. John Edwards with 13 percent.

Retired Gen. Wesley Clark, civil rights activist Al Sharpton and former Cleveland mayor and Rep. Dennis Kucinich split the rest.

Party officials said 46,000 ballots were cast over the Internet in Michigan, an election first.

In the northwestern state of Washington, with 99 percent of precincts reporting, Kerry was on top with 48 percent, followed by Dean with 30 percent, Kucinich with 8 percent and Edwards with 7 percent.

Washington will send 76 delegates to the July Democratic Party convention, where a candidate will be chosen to take on Bush on Nov. 2, but the real prize on Saturday was Michigan, which sends 128 delegates to the convention.



KERRY reacting to the crowd after big wins. AP

Dean, who was the favorite to win the nomination just weeks ago but has been eclipsed by the surging Kerry, took heart from his second-place finish in Washington and vowed to fight on.

"The people of Washington state have sent a clear message that they want this race and this debate to continue, and that our campaign is the real alternative to John Kerry," he said in a statement.

Dean has said he will drop out of the race if he fails to win the Feb. 17 primary in the northern state of Wisconsin.

Kerry had been heavily favored to win in Michigan and Washington and has been topping opinion polls in the northeastern state of Maine, which will hold its caucus Sunday.

Southerners Edwards and Clark are hoping to perform well in Virginia and Tennessee in a bid to stay in the race until "Super Tuesday" March 2, when 10 states go the polls to apportion more than half the 2,162 delegates needed for the nomination. *AFP*

Israel kills Jihad commander

GAZA—An Israeli helicopter gunship slammed a missile into a car in Gaza City on Saturday, killing a top Islamic Jihad commander and a 12-year-old bystander and drawing vows of revenge by Palestinian militants.

The attack coincided with the start of a military trial in Gaza of Palestinians accused of killing three Americans and an impending mission by US officials to discuss Israeli plans to "disengage" from the Palestinians.

The Israeli army confirmed it had targeted the vehicle carrying Aziz al-Shami, who was a top commander in Islamic Jihad's "Jerusalem Brigades" armed wing and a brother-in-law and bodyguard of Islamic Jihad leader Abdallah al-Shami.

Doctors said Shami, 37, died several hours after being wounded in the missile attack, which also killed a 12-year-old boy. Two other militants in Shami's car were seriously wounded and seven passers-by were hit by shrapnel, they said.

Abdallah al-Shami told Reuters the death "brought happiness into our hearts" because Aziz had achieved the martyrdom which he sought, but it made the group more determined to "launch powerful and painful strikes against the enemy." Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie condemned the missile attack as an attempt to heighten tension in the region.

Israeli government spokesman Avi Pazner said Shami was targeted as a "ticking bomb" because he was plotting an attack at a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip.

"It is important for us to try to prevent terrorism before it occurs and we thought we would save many human lives if we take him out," he said.

He also said Shami was involved in attacks that have killed 25 Israelis, including 22 in a double suicide bombing in 1995 and three soldiers killed in Gaza in October.

Pazner expressed regret that the boy died in the air strike and offered condolences to the family.

Islamic Jihad is sworn to the destruction of Israel and has helped lead a suicide bombing campaign against Israelis for more than a decade. *Reuters*

20 killed in Afghan clashes

KABUL—At least 20 people were killed and 40 wounded in several clashes in the northeastern Afghan province of Badakhshan, official sources reported on Sunday.

Hundreds of civilians have been forced to flee their homes after fighting erupted between two government commanders in several areas of Argo district on Thursday, they said.

"Twenty people have been killed and 40 injured in Argo in continuation of the clashes," the government-owned Anis daily reported in Kabul.

Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press said fighting had not stopped until Sunday morning over a dispute between the two commanders about who would receive a tax on poppy crop, which has been cultivated in different areas of the district.

About 100 security forces have been sent from Faizabad, the provincial capital of Badakhshan, to stop the fighting, authorities said, adding locals wanted the central government to step in because they do not trust provincial officials. *Reuters*

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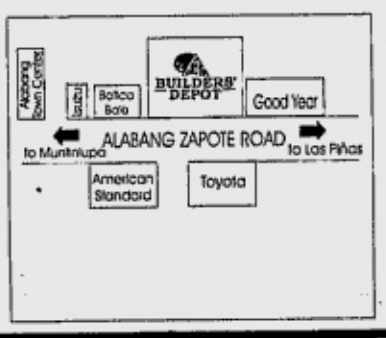

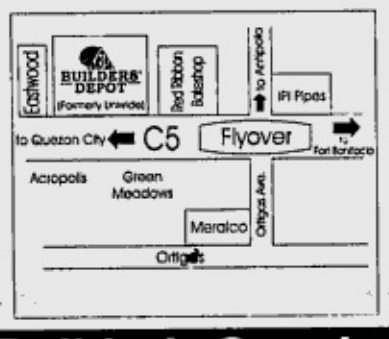

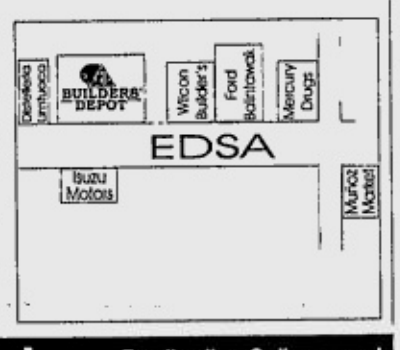

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Deadline for submission of entries is March 9, 2004.

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Terrorists seen having the will, expertise to employ dirty bomb

JAKARTA, Indonesia—Terrorists have the will and "a reasonable amount" of expertise to employ a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear weapon and will do so if they acquire the necessary materials, said the US State Department's top anti-terror official.

Cofer Black, US ambassador at large for anti-terrorism, also said that despite the arrest or killing of more than two-thirds of the al-Qaida leadership of the 9/11 period, the group remains "very dangerous."

Speaking to The Associated Press at the US ambassador's residence in Jakarta on Saturday, Black said US officials are "killing ourselves" to prevent the dirty bomb and other unconventional weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists, but said the threat remains.

"We know beyond a shadow of a doubt that a number of these groups if they had it would use it," said Black, who accompanied US Attorney General John Ashcroft to an Asia Pacific anti-terror summit on the Indonesian island of Bali last week.

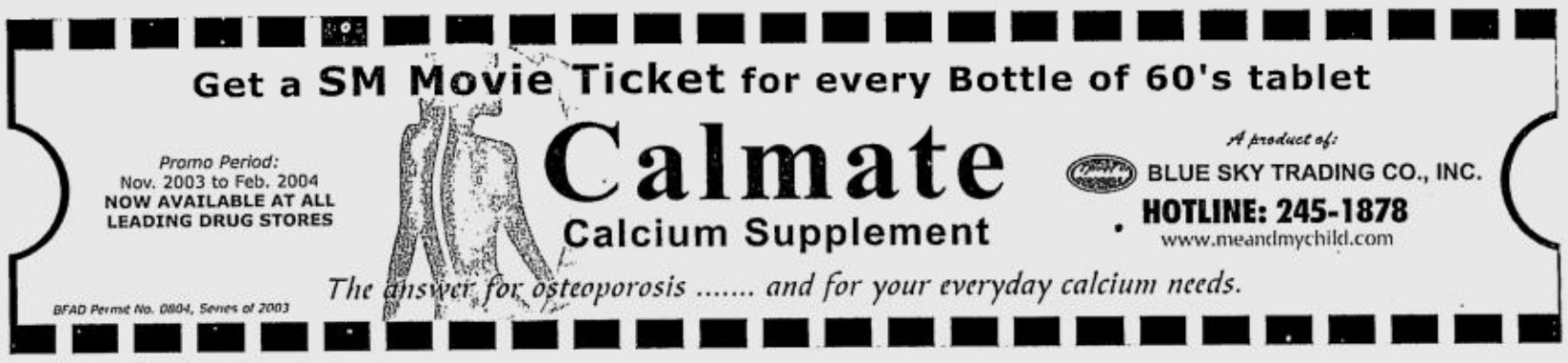
"They've got the will. A lot of these guys seek the expertise, and there's a reasonable amount of that out there, but what you're really looking for is the coming together of all the factors: the will, the expertise and the materials," he said.

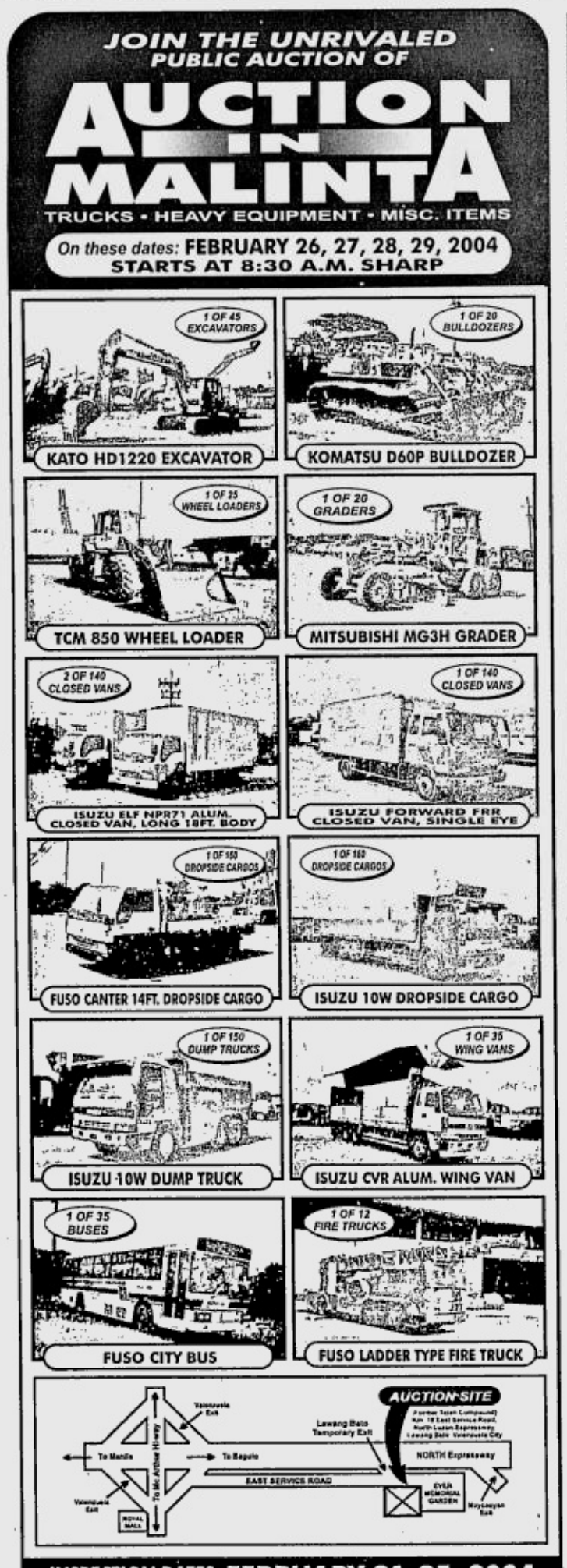
Black's comments follow recent revelations that the father of Pakistan's nuclear program, Abdul Qadeer Khan, had sold equipment related to centrifuges, used to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons, to Iran, Libya and North Korea.

Experts say the same black market that enabled those countries to obtain nuclear weapons technology raises suspicions that terrorists also acquired bomb components or plans.

"If al-Qaida were to put together a radiological device, they're going to use it. We know that they have the determination, they've killed large numbers before, their objective is to kill more, they're doing everything they can to acquire this type of weapon and we are working to try to prevent it," Black said.

Unless the Bush administration quickly develops a coherent strategy to fight the threat, "a nuclear terrorist attack on the United States will be more likely than not in the decade ahead," wrote Harvard University's Graham Allison in the latest issue of Foreign Affairs magazine. *AP*





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Bush won't sack Tenet despite intel blunders

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush gave CIA director George Tenet a vote of confidence on Saturday and said his job was not in jeopardy, despite flaws in US prewar intelligence on Iraq.

"I strongly believe the CIA is ably led by George Tenet," Bush was quoted as saying in a transcript from an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press."

Asked by moderator Tim Russert if Tenet's job was at risk, Bush replied, "No, not at all, not at all."

The hourlong interview, which was taped on Saturday, will air on Sunday morning. Excerpts of it were released ahead of time.

Democrats vying to challenge Bush for the presidency in the November election have seized on the administration's failure to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Such weapons were a main reason Bush cited for the Iraq war, in which more than 500 US troops have died.

TENET AFP

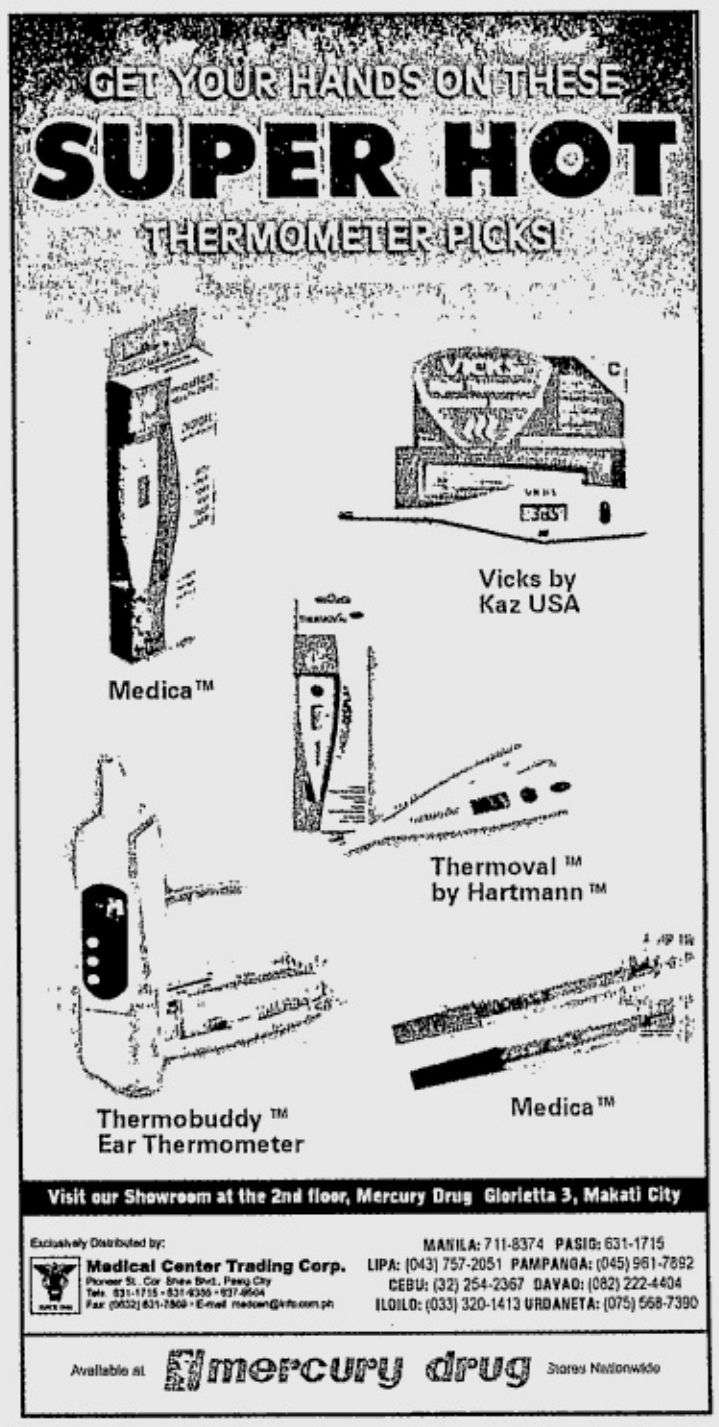
To try to quell some of the criticism, Bush on Friday named a commission to investigate failures in the Iraq intelligence.

Some Republicans have been eager to blame Tenet for the intelligence failures as way of trying to shield the White House. But Bush's comments indicated the White House does not favor that strategy, which could carry risks for him in an election year.

Tenet has staunchly defended Bush against critics who said the White House pressured intelligence analysts to skew their findings to bolster the case for war.

The interview with Russert comes after the president's poll numbers have been fading lately. He appears to have been hurt by former chief US weapons hunter David Kay's assertions that he does not believe Iraq's ousted President Saddam Hussein possessed any stockpiles of banned weapons.

Republicans said Bush's decision to grant an interview with Russert was part of an effort to fight back against weeks of Democratic attack. *Reuters*



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Vietnamese victims sue makers of Agent Orange

HANOI—Three Vietnamese victims of Agent Orange have begun legal action against manufacturers of the defoliant used by US forces during the Vietnam War, a move analysts say was inevitable given Washington's failure to atone for its use.

The Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange, which was established last month under the umbrella of the ruling Communist Party, filed a lawsuit on their behalf at the US Federal Court in Brooklyn, New York on Jan. 30.

Nguyen Trong Nhan, the organization's vice president, said more than 20 American companies engaged in the production of Agent Orange had been named in the suit, including Dow Chemical Co. and Monsanto Co.

The amount of money the three plaintiffs are seeking in damages has not yet been determined, Nhan said.

"This has been a long time coming. It was almost inevitable because the US government has done almost nothing to help Vietnamese victims," said Chuck Searcy, an American aid worker in Vietnam.

Nhan insisted that the lawsuit was initiated independently from the government. Some sources say it could have been filed at the behest of American lawyers working on a pro bono basis.

"It looks as though the government is watching from the sidelines without intervening to block the case. It could probably do so if it wanted to," said Searcy, a Vietnam War veteran.

His comments were echoed by a Hanoi-based Western diplomat.

"I don't think the government is behind this. They seem sincere in their desire to continue the process of improving US-Vietnam relations," he said. "I'm just surprised it hasn't happened before."

The legacy of Agent Orange remains a source of contention between the two former foes, who only established diplomatic relations in 1995, two decades after the war ended.

From 1961 to 1971, the US and South Vietnamese military sprayed millions of liters of toxic herbicides, mainly Agent Orange, over South Vietnam to destroy the vegetation used by communist forces for cover and food.

VIETNAM War Agent Orange victim Thai Thi Ha, 13, from the central province of Nghe An, clapping and singing during a fund-raising meeting for Agent Orange victims in Hanoi in June 2003. AFP

Various herbicide mixtures identified by colored stripes on their containers, were used during the spraying program, which was known as Operation Ranch Hand. Agent Orange was the most common mixture used.

Hanoi says the defoliant has caused health problems for more than one million Vietnamese and continues to have devastating consequences.

A study, released in August last year by scientists from the United States, Germany and Vietnam, found that Agent Orange was still contaminating people through their food.

Dioxin, the defoliant's deadly component, can cause an increased risk of cancers, immunodeficiencies, reproductive and developmental changes, nervous system problems and other health effects, according to medical experts.

Vietnam says the United States has a moral and humanitarian responsibility to heal the wounds of the war but it has never formally asked for compensation for Agent Orange victims.

Washington, however, insists there is no direct evidence linking dioxin with any illnesses. Agreeing to disagree, both governments signed a pact in March 2002 on a framework for more research into the impact of the defoliant.

"Despite the US government saying there is no scientific evidence proving the impact of Agent Orange on human health here, the evidence seems pretty overwhelming," said Searcy.

US chemical companies engaged in the production of Agent Orange, including Dow Chemical and Monsanto, have found themselves in the dock before. *AFP*

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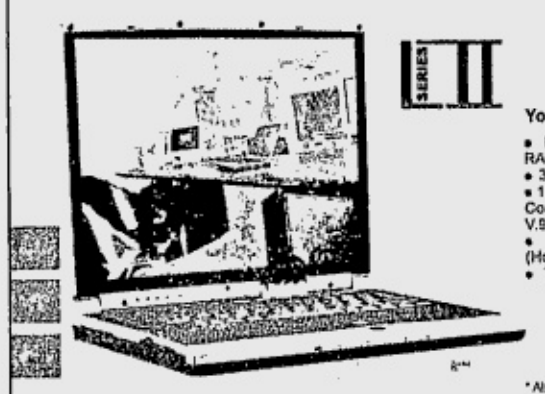

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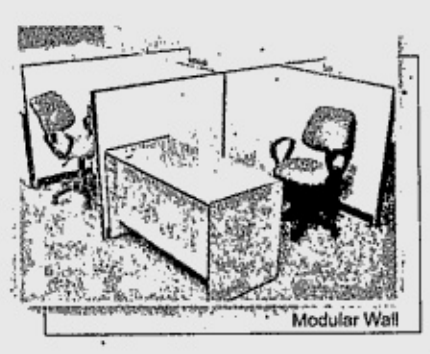
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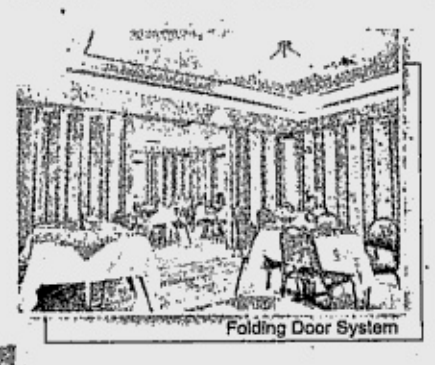
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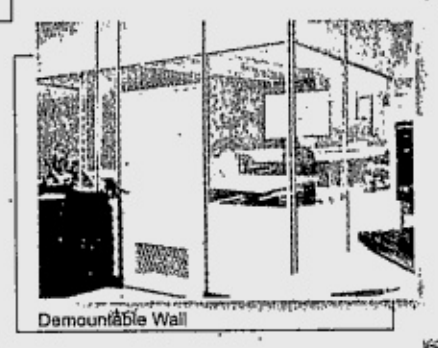
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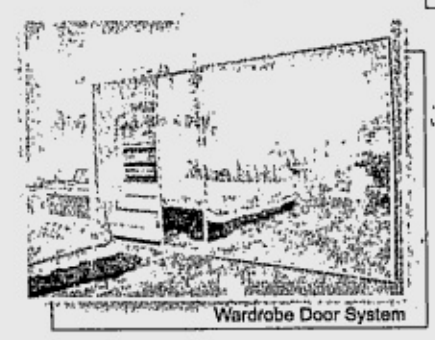
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OPINION

ISSN 0116-2642 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 19 No. 63

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

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'Meron'

IT was, by any objective measure, a grudging admission. Asked by TV journalist Jessica Soho if he did in fact sire a child by actress Ana Marin, opposition coalition candidate Fernando Poe Jr. answered yes.

Actually, he said "*Meron*"—meaning "I do" or more precisely "I do have a child by her"—and then left it at that. He did not name his son, whom he later said he was proud of.

EDITORIALS His political supporters immediately hailed Poe's admission—made under pressure, offered without specifics, over two decades after the fact—as an almost heroic act of transparency. "This is the kind of leader Filipinos are looking for—one who is not afraid of the truth," said Didagen Dilangalen, Maguindanao representative and a senatorial candidate on Poe's ticket.

"FPJ is honest about everything. He told everything. We should appreciate that," his running mate, Sen. Loren Legarda, told reporters. "It's not an issue to me because every person has his past. It's always a blessing to have a child," she added.

This is the kind of answer that raises old and awkward questions yet again, especially of those politicians enjoying their second marriages or reported to be romantically involved with someone other than their spouse. But did Poe really reveal "everything"?

He may have other children by women other than his wife. An opposition spokesperson hinted at more disclosures, but added coyly that it was up to Poe to make them.

If this is, as Dilangalen avers, a portrait of a leader who is not afraid of the truth, then the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino has redefined honesty and transparency.

'Wala'

UNFORTUNATELY, the hullabaloo over Fernando Poe Jr.'s "love child" has obscured what may well be the essential insight of that GMA-7 interview. Poe is running on motherhood statements because he does not feel the need to offer specifics.

It is not a question of strategy alone. The "no talk, no mistake" principle Sen. Gene Magsaysay enunciated a generation ago applies but only up to a point. The "no debate" tactic frontrunners use has only a limited bearing. It seems likely that Poe does not see the need to fill in the blanks because he does not see any blanks to fill in in the first place.

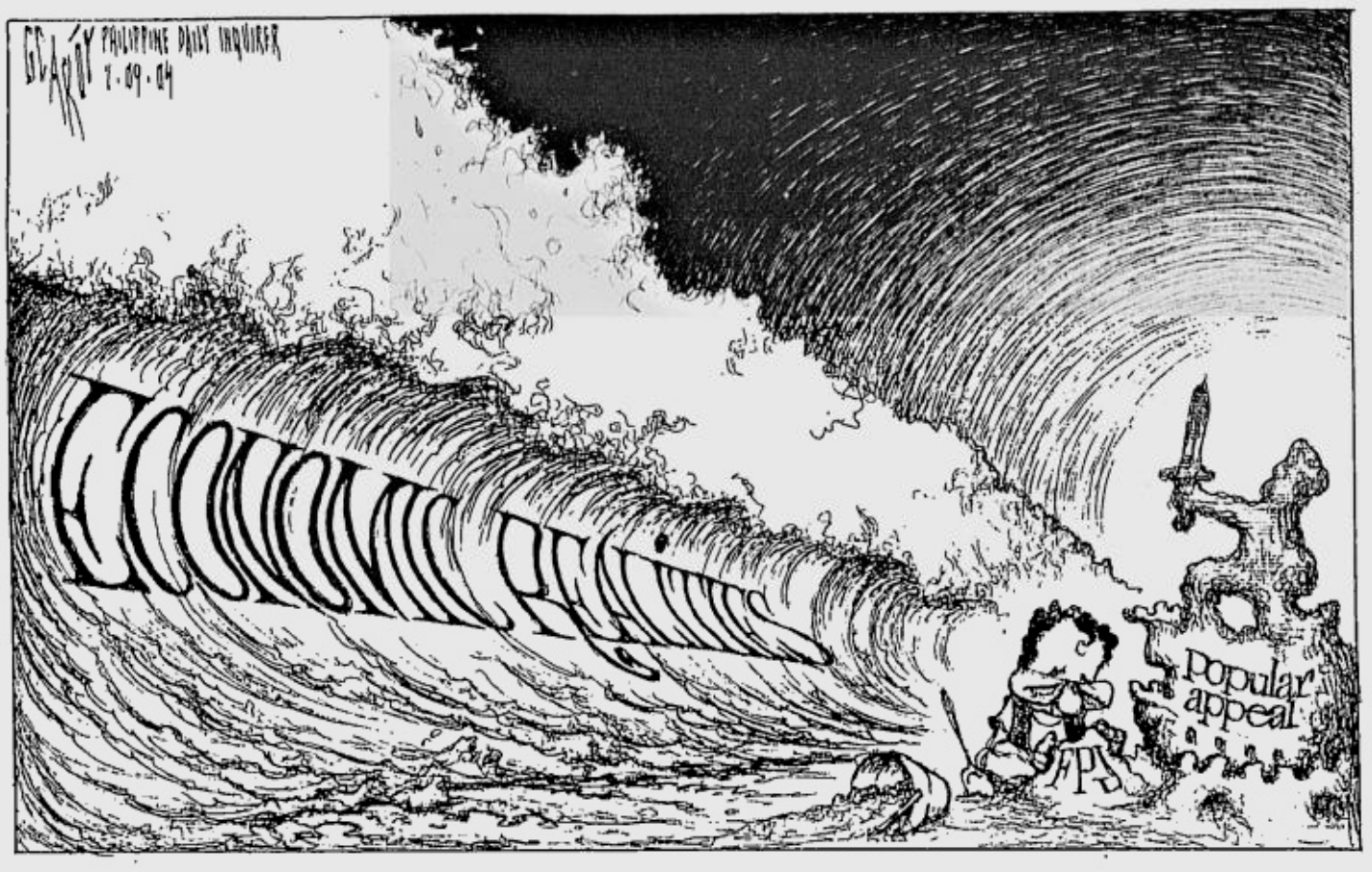
That, at least, is what a close reading of the interview's transcript, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, suggests.

When Poe, a movie actor for over 40 years, says that, and we quote, "I went to the squatters, those who are poor, up in the mountains, to every corner in the country, and I see what is really happening," he not only means it, he may think it is enough. "I think some people," he says in English, before switching to Filipino, "don't really see the true situation of the common people." But by implication, he does, and it is enough.

In fact, he sidesteps the question of his lack of an economic platform by casting the spotlight back on his questioners. After it was noted that the issue was raised by businessmen such as those allied with the Makati Business Club, Poe says, in Filipino: "My obligation is not to them, but to the people. That is my obligation. That will be my responsibility to them." And again, by implication, it is enough.

When he says he does have a platform of government, and is then pressed for details on his economic plan, he replies, "I have an economic team." But later, when he is asked about reports that it will be politicians like Edgardo Angara, Juan Ponce Enrile, Ernesto Maceda and Vicente Sotto III who will run his administration he answers in Filipino: "That's not true. Maybe that's what people who don't know me say about me." In other words, everything boils down to character: his own. And it is enough. Asked, as a parting shot, why people should vote for him, he says, in English, "Because I'm honest."

It's the H-word again. But what does it mean? We know now that for the KNP, it doesn't mean fidelity to one's spouse. ("Every person has his past.") We know now that it doesn't mean accepting the negative consequences of one's act. (This issue will earn "good points for him," Sotto said.) For Poe, who is not tainted by government service, honesty means not being corrupt. That is all, but he thinks it is enough.



The battle for Philippine skies

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LIKE the Battle of Britain during World War II, a battle for Philippine skies is now raging. The battle consists of full-page advertisements between advocates of "open skies" and a group of tour operators and cargo forwarders who call themselves SOS (for Save Our Skies) Daredevils.

Open skies advocates, led by the Freedom to Fly Coalition (FFC), want to open up Philippine air space to as many international airlines wanting to come in, arguing that more incoming flights will not only perk up the ailing local travel and tourism industry, but will also push down passenger fares.

The SOS group claims that, on the contrary, open skies will put the Philippine carriers at the mercy of giant international airlines, deprive thousands of domestic airline workers of their jobs, and raise fares, because once local airlines go bankrupt, the international giants will increase theirs. This was what happened when Singapore Airlines and Australia's Qantas were able to bump off Philippine Airlines from their routes.

Caught in the middle is a member of the Civil Aeronautics Board, Alberto Lim, and a former member, Victor Limlingan. The two are for more liberal Philippine aviation policies. SOS says they are "dummies" of American groups lobbying for open skies and that they have no business being in a government regulatory body because of conflict of interest. SOS wants Lim to resign.

Last week, a full-page ad extolling Lim came out in major dailies. Last Wednesday, SOS came out with its own full-page ad refuting that ad. The issue is a case of *delicadeza*, says the SOS ad. Lim, it said, is one of the founders and vice chair of the FFC, which got its funding from the US lobby group Agile (Accelerating Growth, Investment and Liberalization with Equity) which, in turn, is funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to push pro-US aviation policies.

Also in Wednesday's papers was another full-page ad, this time defending Limlingan. It was Limlingan who had recommended Lim to the Civil Aeronautics Board. And Limlingan himself is a ranking member of FFC, according to SOS. Clearly, they shouldn't be setting Philippine aviation policies. A CAB director earns only a P500 monthly allowance for board meetings. Why is Lim holding on to such a low-paying job? SOS asks.

Lim sits at the CAB supposedly as private sector representative. He operates a resort. But why are affected sectors like the airlines and their workers left out in the cold, SOS members wonder. How did Lim, a founding member of the US lobby group FFC, get first crack at the position? Why is the President's chosen private sector representative so obviously biased in favor of liberalization and grievously against protecting local industries and jobs?

Without taking sides, let me explain the controversy, as I see it. The US aviation industry wants to open Philippine skies to its own carriers. This means that US carriers will be allowed to land and take off and pick up passengers in any Philippine airport as often as they like. The right to air space is traditionally given on a reciprocal basis. The right granted by one country to another country's carriers is the same right granted to the host country's carriers in return. That's only fair, *di ba*?

But in the proposed aviation treaty the United States is pushing, there is no reciprocity. While US carriers will have unlimited access to Philippine airports, our own carriers will be limited to only a few US airports. What's more, US carriers can pick up passengers from RP airports and fly them anywhere, but RP carriers cannot pick up passengers from US airports and fly them to another US airport.

"We are fighting for fair skies and for fair competition," says SOS. "We are not against the 'open skies policy' as long as it truly opens skies to fair and equitable competition. We are against monopolies. We demand reciprocity in trade agreements as a moral business practice. We cannot allow our competitors to have access to our markets while we don't have access to theirs."

CAB executive director Tomas Mañalac weighs in with this observation:

"The RP-US Air Transport Agreement does not provide for a level playing field between RP and US carriers. It imposes restrictions on the access of RP carriers (but not on the US carriers) to market opportunities, on rights to serve US gateways, on routing flexibility, on beyond points, and most significantly on rights to carry traffic between US points and beyond the United States to other countries. In sum, RP carriers' access is limited to less than 50 percent of the current potential RP-US market while US carriers can access the full market."

But why not? After all, US lobbyists make no secret of their goal to push American interests. In its official website, USAID said "Liberalization offers the prospect of broader US access to the Philippine domestic market of 78 million people and the possibility of creating more export-oriented jobs in the United States."

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE:

Comelec: There are many allegations for your disqualification. One allegation says you are not a Filipino citizen. Another allegation says your father is a Spaniard and your mother is an American. Another allegation is you are an illegitimate child.

FPJ: Who are these alligators?

Postscript to prostitution

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE ONE topic that seems to have captured people's minds is political prostitutes. That's what my audience kept asking me about in an out-of-town talk last week.

Well, I did warn Loren Legarda, the object of that diatribe from officer-and-gentleman Victor Corpus, she was courting mayhem from her plan to join the opposition. Leaving Lakas her constituents from Edsa II could buy, sleeping with the enemy they could not. I said she would be seen as an opportunist. But at the back of my mind, I suspected her detractors would use harsher language. The phrase "sleeping with the enemy" was too inviting to let pass, or to leave unexplored. It was just one more step to the word "prostitute."

That Corpus, however, should see Legarda and not other people—chief of them Miriam Defensor-Santiago—guilty of the crime is not just a case of selective perception. Though, of course, it is that too. Corpus is a GMA loyalist—he has a talent for choosing the weirdest people to be loyal to—and tends to see only that the pot and not the kettle is black. His comment is of the same order of selective perception as Legarda's suggestion that intelligence is a requirement for public office, a barb she apparently threw Noli de Castro's way, forgetting she is endorsing the presidential bid of Fernando Poe Jr. While at that, it is also a little cheeky, and raises whole new questions about the pot calling the kettle black.

But more than a case of selective perception, it is a case of no good deed ever going unpunished. You play the part of the hero, people expect you to act heroically. You play the part of the villain, people expect you to act villainously. Santiago has played a villainous part these past few years, exceeding herself when she threw three spectators out of the Senate at the height of the impeachment trial, and generally managing to make herself the one person Filipinos—especially, Ilonggos—loved to hate. Nobody expects her to act like she was in her right mind. Legarda shed bitter tears in the same impeachment trial, managing to help spark public outrage, which became Edsa II. You play the part of Maria Clara, you will be called names when you willingly surrender yourself to the friars. Or court their favor.

But those who say Loren is not the sole, or worst, exponent of political prostitution are right. From where I stand, the phrase "political prostitutes" in this country is a redundancy, or repetition. It is at least the rule rather than the exception. It is enough to make you sympathize with Raul Roco's choice of running mate and senatorial slate, notwithstanding that his rivals tend to depict it as scraping the bottom of the barrel or "not being serious." What is being serious? You may call Hermie Aquino names, but you may not call him turncoat or butterfly or whore. Or indeed flippant: Legarda is right about the qualifications for being a vice president, she is wrong about most having them. But this country having become an Alice in Wonderland, everything is topsy-turvy. The serious are called flighty and the mad are called contenders.

Politics in this country is an engraved invitation to promiscuity, or as prostitution suggests, to selling oneself for gain. The elemental reason for it is our lack of any political party in the real sense of the word. The only true political party in this country is the Communist Party of the Philippines, and it is not fielding candidates, it is (still) seeking to overthrow government. All the other political "parties" are just the temporary refuge of either derelicts or scoundrels. I remember again the comment made by a Japanese and a German friend when I asked them if it was possible for candidates in their countries to change parties. "Yes," they said, "but who will believe them afterward?" In this country, most everyone. Or at least, they would be indifferent to them.

I'd go farther and say that the problem goes beyond politics and extends to the culture itself. It's not just politics that's an engraved invitation to prostitution. Journalism is, too. Elections are to media hacks as ships newly docked were to the Roxannes of Olongapo in the days of the US bases. I just heard recently about some tabloid reporter/editors and radio personalities offering "packages" to candidates, running into the millions. The "packages" varied in price according to frequency of appearance in their tabloids and radio shows. All offered the prospective clients freedom from criticism and damage control or defense when they are attacked elsewhere.

The academe is not exempt from prostitution, even if it is not an engraved invitation to it. I'll leave the issue of surveys to others, though I will say here that Mahar Mangahas does his organization ill not to take a leave of absence given his kinship with Fernando Poe Jr., which compromises its findings however scientific he claims they are. Notable academics were behind the candidacy of Joseph Estrada notwithstanding that they would have flunked him if he was their student. The same academics are behind the candidacy of FPJ notwithstanding that they would pass him only in GMRC. Of course they comfort themselves with the thought they are sincere, hoping as they did and do to steer them in the right direction. Well, some whores too comfort themselves in the thought they are helping stoke their customers' libido and improve their techniques for the benefit of their wives.

One can make a case as well for the Church, for business, for the US Embassy (yes, that is a Philippine institution, too, being part and parcel of internal affairs), for the public itself. Selling oneself for gain is the country's favorite pastime, texting is only second.

Prostitutes? We're the veritable capital of the world.

Battle lines drawn

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A LEADING candidate for Philippine ambassador to the Holy See, the post recently vacated by Francisco Alba, is Domingo Mapa, who has been receiving numerous endorsements from top officials of the Catholic Church, notably Ricardo Cardinal Vidal of Cebu, Archbishop Fernando Capalla of Davao and Msgr. Hernando Coronel, CBCP secretary general. A Knight of the Sovereign Order of Malta and past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, Mapa, together with his wife, Lirio Ongpin-Mapa, is very well known for his active involvement in various religious organizations, such as, the Focolare Movement, Christian Family Movement, Marriage Encounter and pastoral council in Dumaguete. Many Forbes Park and Dasmariñas Village parishioners, including Eggie Apostol's better half, Peping Apostol, know Mapa as a dedicated eucharistic minister actively serving the Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish, bringing Holy Communion daily to the homes of ailing parishioners. As Cardinal Vidal put it, Mapa has led an exemplary life of impeccable moral character and many years of selfless and dedicated service to the Catholic Church. He would be an asset to the country in the Vatican.

* * *

The media covering the Senate evidently thought that its closing session last Friday evening was going to be another uneventful one, so by about 11 p.m. they went home; the only ones left in the gallery were Senate employees, who had earlier caught the heated verbal clash on closed-circuit TV and went down to watch the exciting drama in the session hall. Little did they realize that the session would close with a big bang as the senators voted along party lines. At 12:45 a.m. last Saturday, when the gavel was finally banged, there were, as Sen. Joker Arroyo put it, "no goodbyes and all the opposition senators were poker-faced." The majority senators wore smirks on their faces.

The fireworks that erupted over Senate Committee Report 517 on the Ricardo Manapat case signaled the drawing of battle lines down to the May elections. Left unacted were various local bills for which many House members, nervous over their non-passage, had trooped to the Senate to lobby, as well as the human rights victims' compensation bill.

* * *

Sen. Edgardo Angara, chair of the committee on constitutional amendments and revision of laws, earlier submitted his committee's report, recommending that criminal and administrative charges be filed against the National Archives director for allegedly falsifying the documents on the disqualification case against opposition candidate Fernando Poe Jr. The one-inch thick, 113-page report, which had 32 pages on the report itself and 81 pages of attachments, was circulated among the senators only that day, triggering the stand of the majority senators to abstain in the nominal voting.

* * *

The minority, as predicted, voted solidly and were joined in their vote by Lakas Sen. Juan Flavier, who was presiding. With their nine votes, they had hoped that majority Senators John Osmeña and Arroyo would abstain, while their seven other colleagues would vote to reject the report, for a 9-7-2 voting in its favor. But the majority, anticipating it, entirely opted to abstain. When Angara declared that the Senate vote of 9 for, 9 abstention carried the report, Senate President Franklin Drilon asserted that the minority had failed to muster the needed minimum 10 votes, as the rules provided.

* * *

Arroyo and Sen. Ralph Recto supported Drilon, whereupon Sen. Vicente Sotto took the floor and at the top of his voice denounced the majority for "supporting a fabricator" and "not even being man enough to vote No." The majority senators said they needed more time to understand the voluminous report (but evidently that was also a strategy to defeat the minority group pushing hard for the report's adoption), but Sotto kept ranting at the top of his voice. Sen. Robert Barbers then stood up to object to Sotto's screams and he replied that in that very chamber Claro Recto, Jose Laurel and other illustrious greats had also raised their voices. Barbers retorted, "But they were not angry." A colleague quipped from the sidelines that Barbers was clearly at a disadvantage as he couldn't return Sotto's vocal fire from his own damaged voice box, but Barbers got a plus from his colleagues for taking on the shrieking former comedian. Recto, sporting a naughty grin, challenged the minority: Do they mean that if 17 abstained and one voted in favor of that report, it is carried? Sen. Aquilino Pimentel retorted that it's "an impossible scenario."

The interpellation went courteously, with new GMA ally John Osmeña grilling Angara the longest and skillfully. Sen. Tessie Oreta later ribbed Osmeña, "*may utang ka sa akin*." But after the vote, all civility was out. Actually, had Sen. Panfilo Lacson shown up the minority would have gotten 10 votes.

* * *

The debate is whether an even vote of nine for Yes and nine for abstention carries the report. The opposition cites Supreme Court rulings which showed that abstentions constitute no votes, but the majority insists that the minority did not have the minimum votes. As Sen. Manuel Villar put it, the report is "just another document." Actually, it's funny the chamber is torn up about the Manapat case, for lawyers know that even without the Allan Poe birth certificate and the Allan Poe-Paulita Gomez marriage contract, both of which are alleged to have been forged by Manapat, the case against FPJ remains valid. I suppose the opposition needs that Senate endorsement of the report to convince the *masa* of the alleged forgeries. But the majority was not ready to allow that, convinced perhaps that the Angara group stage-managed the hearing and the witnesses' testimonies.

Bird flu news

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

ABOUT the same time last year, the world reeled from Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. News about its fatalities and the frustrating search for an antidote dominated print and broadcast media for almost two months.

After the SARS hysteria had died down, some readers complained about the way the INQUIRER handled the news about the deadly virus. They felt the newspaper went overboard ("OA" or "overacting," as one reader puts it) in reporting the problem. I took a contrary view, however. In my opinion, the SARS coverage in question was justified by the exigencies of the times then.

With SARS still without a proven cure, now comes bird flu. The latest medical headache to hit the region (minus the Philippines for the time being) has already caused the mass killing of millions of chicken and the death, so far, of 17 people.

Reminiscent of the SARS coverage, a reader, Lumen Adriano, expressed some misgivings with the way the INQUIRER reported the news about bird flu. She wrote: "You allocated so much space for bird flu, but, unfortunately, everything happened in Thailand... not in Batangas, not in Bukidnon, not in Pampanga where our chickens are.

"Your title was about transmission from humans to humans. But it seems no case over five, worldwide, has been recorded so far. Not even in China where the virus first made headlines.

"More importantly, and more unfortunately, not much space was allocated to allaying public fear about the virus: that can be easily killed by simple cooking or at least 70 degrees Celsius, which is not even boiling point at that, to kill the virus. Yes, you did 'tell-it-as-it-is.' On hindsight, maybe, you should have waited some time for everything to get clearer before publishing those cases in Thailand. Or you could have allocated the same amount of space in telling the people that after all, the chicken virus can be killed by simple cooking, hence, there really should be no big cause for alarm."

Coverage

I went through the back issues of the INQUIRER to validate the reader's complaint. News about bird flu came out as early as December 2003 in the inside pages, with United States health experts warning about the possible resurgence of the deadly virus.

On Jan. 17, 2004, the INQUIRER, quoting an international news agency, reported that bird flu is "more lethal than SARS with a small genetic twist—it could easily spread among humans around the world and, in the darkest scenario, it could even mutate into a killer of the kind that slew tens of millions of people after World War I."

The succeeding days saw news about the mass culling of chickens and deaths in Vietnam and Thailand that were attributed to bird flu. On Jan. 27, the front page of the INQUIRER informed the readers that the virus has spread to nine countries and the death toll is rising.

The newspaper's coverage of the bird flu, compared to that of SARS, has not been as intense and extensive. It's probably because, unlike in SARS, there have been no reports yet of direct contact with the virus in the Philippines. Our local breeding farms have managed to keep their chickens out of harm's way and no Filipino appears to have been infected by it as of this writing.

Besides, with the political cauldron already starting to boil, interesting developments in the campaign trail, not to mention important financial news, are competing for space in the newspaper. Bird flu cannot hold a candle to the public's interest in politics.

Fair treatment

While I sympathize with the reader's sentiments, I do not think it is fair to say that the newspaper gave too much attention to bird flu insofar as it affected other countries. It was only logical to publish reports about events in Thailand and the other affected countries because they are our neighbors and whatever financial or health problems hit them invariably affect us.

Neither was there much to report about the activities of the poultry farms in Batangas, Bukidnon or Pampanga other than the precautionary measures being taken to prevent the entry of the virus and the low demand for chicken brought about by the bird flu scare.

If, by some unfortunate quirk of fate, the local poultry farms get hit by the virus, I think the INQUIRER will be obliged to report that news so the public can be warned about the consequences of such infection. In the meantime, the lack of publicity should be considered as a blessing rather than a bane.

With regard to the alleged failure to allocate sufficient editorial space to allay the public's apprehension about the virus, I think the newspaper was not remiss in this aspect. It reported the health department's advice to the public to cook their chicken dishes well before eating them. The press conference called by Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit where he and a representative of the local office of the World Health Organization ate fried chicken in public received ample publicity.

Compromise

I'm sure this will not be the last time that the INQUIRER will be criticized by some of its readers for its coverage of events or issues that may cause some people to panic or act irrationally. When reporting news of that nature, the newspaper has to strike a balance between its duty to report the news accurately and its responsibility not to unduly alarm the public.

If a bank is confirmed to be on the verge of bankruptcy, the newspaper will be considered negligent in its duty to the public if it withholds publication of that information. But in reporting the news, it runs the risk of sparking a "bank run" that may hasten the bank's collapse.

The same principle applies to shortages of basic commodities. News about low production of certain products often encourages housewives to rush to the market to stock up on those goods. The panic buying results in the rise of prices and fast depletion of the already scarce commodity.

Remember the "mad cow" disease in Europe that hit the headlines in 2002? Although the newspaper reports emphasized that the bovine disease was limited to some European countries, the sale of beef in our country was nonetheless adversely affected. The assurances given by the then health secretary about the quality of local beef were published in such a way that they conveyed the right message and were not interpreted as a portent of worse things to come. Some Filipinos have a tendency to read unpleasant scenarios into official pronouncements.

In situations like these, the editors have only their gut feeling borne out of years of journalistic experience to bank on for guidance.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

The expert

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

THE FIRST time I met incumbent Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita was two years into the martial law regime. He was a handsome young colonel and, we were told, a "psy-war expert."

I had the chance to watch him work when we were holed up for almost a week at the Lantaka Hotel in Zamboanga City, engaged in a "highly confidential" project.

For a backgrounder: The Department of Public Information, now the Philippine Information Agency, had just been organized. It was the most exciting government office to work with then—the salary range was the envy of the rest of the bureaucracy; our uniforms were designed by no less than Pitoy Moreno; and the perks included months-long seminar-workshops at the Development Academy of the Philippines or in expensive hotels, with just about the best in their fields of expertise serving as lecturers and resource speakers.

And the company was really classy. Former senator and now senatorial candidate Francisco Tatad was secretary, Reuben Canoy was undersecretary; now famous restaurateur Larry Cruz headed the Bureau of National and Foreign Information; Jose Pavia, the Philippine News Agency; Greg Cendana, the broadcast bureau; and Greg Brillantes was in charge of the publication of beautiful, glossy world-class magazines. I got a mild shock when Brillantes asked permission to reprint one of my short stories that had earlier been published in a weekly magazine, compensating me almost 10 times over.

Like many others who were driven by their own compelling reasons, I joined, and worked for, the enemy. After surviving the siege of Jolo, I found myself trying to survive another, more cruel, more vicious war, on a personal level. Joining the DPI was, I thought then, one way I could try to make sense of it all.

Before that, I was the technical assistant for culture in the office of the provincial governor (how I got there is yet another story) and one of my tasks was to sign for "warm bodies" at the military headquarters whenever the late Gov. Muss Izquierdo was out of town or otherwise could not do it. What this actually meant was it was my task to fetch military prisoners who were due for release. Each time, I had to sign several layers of pastel-colored paper certifying that they were alive when I took them. If by chance, they suffered a sudden heart attack from sheer relief when they were already in my custody, the responsibility would have been mine.

Without exception, each one of them bore, in different degrees, signs of torture and beating; some had faces swollen almost beyond recognition. Christian or Muslim, Tausug, Bisaya, Tagalog, Zamboangueño—they shared the same fate. One young man from Bohol who had worked in one of the establishments in town was still groggy as he confessed in broken *Bahasa Sug* how he had been sodomized by four drunken soldiers the night before, begging me to get him a tricycle because it was too painful to walk.

It came to a point that I started having very bad dreams. And much as I thought it was my duty to stay, I followed the vast majority of Joloanos who fled to Zambaonga, and with a sheaf of my published articles, walked into the office of then DPI regional director Jose Lopez, got a job with the impressive title of "media specialist" and a salary to match.

And that was how I got to work, for a week at least, with then Colonel Ermita, because as everyone knew, the DPI was the Marcos propaganda machine. That week was also the time when I learned about "scenarios" and browsed through "blue covers," how to outline in sequence an "Oplan" with reserve "Plan A," "B," and so on, to fit these, as perfectly as possible, into a pre-determined "time-frame."

Which is why I understand perfectly why President Macapagal-Arroyo asked Ermita to help in her campaign, although I don't quite agree with his rather self-deprecating justification for this added task.

According to Ermita, the President had requested his assistance because he, after all, was a veteran of electoral campaigns, having won as congressman for three consecutive terms. Admittedly, it's no mean feat. But what is that compared to topping a senatorial contest and bagging the vice-presidency with an overwhelming majority. The President is no neophyte.

But this is an election like no other. Popularity is definitely the name of the game and the rules have changed, drastically. Now imagine you were the President and since the time you made that ill-advised or ill-thought decision to announce that you were running in this election, you have found yourself almost deliberately saying the wrong things and making the wrong decisions as if doggedly to self-destruct.

You keep reminding everyone of your achievements but the masses are not listening because they can't comprehend it; besides, they'd really rather watch the old movies of the *Panday* that are being shown on TV with a vengeance, and never mind that Fernando Poe Jr. can't forge a miserable bolo if his life depended on it.

Then, your speechwriters make you issue such ludicrous threats like the country running the risk of becoming a global "laughingstock" if you don't get elected, and you say it with such conviction that people are wondering whether you're deaf because everyone else has been hearing the laughter already.

In such a scenario, you don't send in the clowns. You don't ask for the assistance of Congress three-termer Eduardo Ermita to "salvage" the situation. Because this is when you go into extreme measure mode and ask for—The Expert.

* * *

Comments to nm19@my.smart.com.ph

The origins of celebrity politics

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

TRENDS in national life take a long time to gain momentum, and they take time to eventually give way to other trends. One such trend is show-biz personalities in politics. To understand this trend, you have to look at the Philippine Senate, which is viewed as the training ground for presidents. Senators, like presidents, are elected nationally, and the success of a senator often prefigures the success of a presidential candidate; at the very least, a successful senator is prone to harboring ambitions for the presidency.

For the Senate, the trend of electing show-biz personalities can be traced to a specific decision taken by Congress in the 1950s, which was to eliminate bloc voting.

When the Senate was restored in 1941, it became a chamber whose members were elected at large, instead of by district, as was the case from 1916-1934. The justification for the restoration of the Senate was based on the experience of the country under a unicameral legislature from 1935-40, which revealed the tendency for the herd mentality to erupt among assemblymen, resulting in stampedes by members of the National Assembly, which proved bothersome to Malacañang. A Senate would act as a break on the enthusiasm of congressmen, while at the same time provide an opportunity for the training of national leaders required by a young country like ours.

But there was a risk in having senators elected at large: senatorial campaigns would be available only to the very rich, or the very popular, which meant that the quality of the senators might rapidly deteriorate. The solution was to allow bloc voting, which meant that voters, instead of listing every single name, could merely write the name of the party on their ballot, thus crediting a vote to all the national candidates of that party. Bloc voting would give party slates a fighting chance, raise the chances of winning for the less wealthy candidates and foster the delicate combination of regional affiliations and personal skills required to put together a strong ticket. Allowing bloc voting would, of course, also help the majority party, the Nacionalista Party. With the extension of the suffrage to women in 1937, it was expected that the electorate, formerly limited to males (with property or who paid taxes), would change, increasing the impact of popularity on elections.

However, voters were allowed to individually list candidates if they so wanted, which is why, in the first national senatorial election in September 1941, Claro M. Recto, with his reputation for integrity and independence, came first, even ahead of more accomplished politicians such as Manuel Roxas and the then Speaker of the National Assembly, Jose Yulo. And yet, the entire Nacionalista slate won, down to a fairly obscure governor named Rafael Martinez, who was placed as a substitute for Norberto Romualdez, who died on the eve of the elections.

Thus remained the setup from 1941 to 1957, incidentally the years when the party system in this country was at its strongest. To be a Liberal or a Nacionalista made sense because there were advantages to voting straight tickets.

Then in 1956, Congress decided to pass Republic Act 559, abolishing bloc voting. I am convinced that immediately after that the decline of the party system began. There was no longer an incentive for politicians to rely on their party, in order to get elected into a national office. Instead, it became necessary to rely on campaigning for yourself, or switching to the group that had the most resources to give, so that you could win on your own individual merits and thus help pack the Senate with candidates affiliated with a party: hence the bad habit of "guest candidates," a development dating back to that time as well.

The elimination of bloc voting was hailed as a step forward for democracy, giving the electorate greater, full freedom of choice. It also meant that "electability" became even more crucial; it meant that unless you were an Osias, a Paredes, an "Amang" Rodriguez, a Recto, or a Tañada, with decades of political experience and national exposure, it would be just as easy for a celebrity to vault to the Senate as it would be for a politician climbing up the old-fashioned way.

For the presidency, the changing composition of our voters (younger, disenchanted with old politicos and their old ways) had already resulted in a generational shift with the election of Ramon Magsaysay in 1953. Immediately after bloc voting was abolished, Carlos Garcia was elected a minority president in 1957; and in 1958 matinee idol Rogelio de la Rosa was elected senator (and would make an abortive run for the presidency in 1961); in 1970, Eddie Ilarde (of "Student Canteen" fame) was in the Senate. The only reason there weren't more De la Rosas and Ilardes was that veteran senators with decades of experience kept getting elected, while there was a significant number of new faces who were in tune with the electorate, such as Ninoy Aquino, Gaudencio Antonino, "Soc" Rodrigo and so on. The abolition of bloc voting, though, triggered a new trend.

When the Senate was restored after martial law, the young turks had grown old; the party system had withered away; and the term-limit rule opened the floodgates to celebrity senators. (More on that next time.)

* * *

Comments are welcome at www.quezon.ph.

Abolish the death penalty

I AM against the implementation of the death penalty as a punishment for heinous crimes.

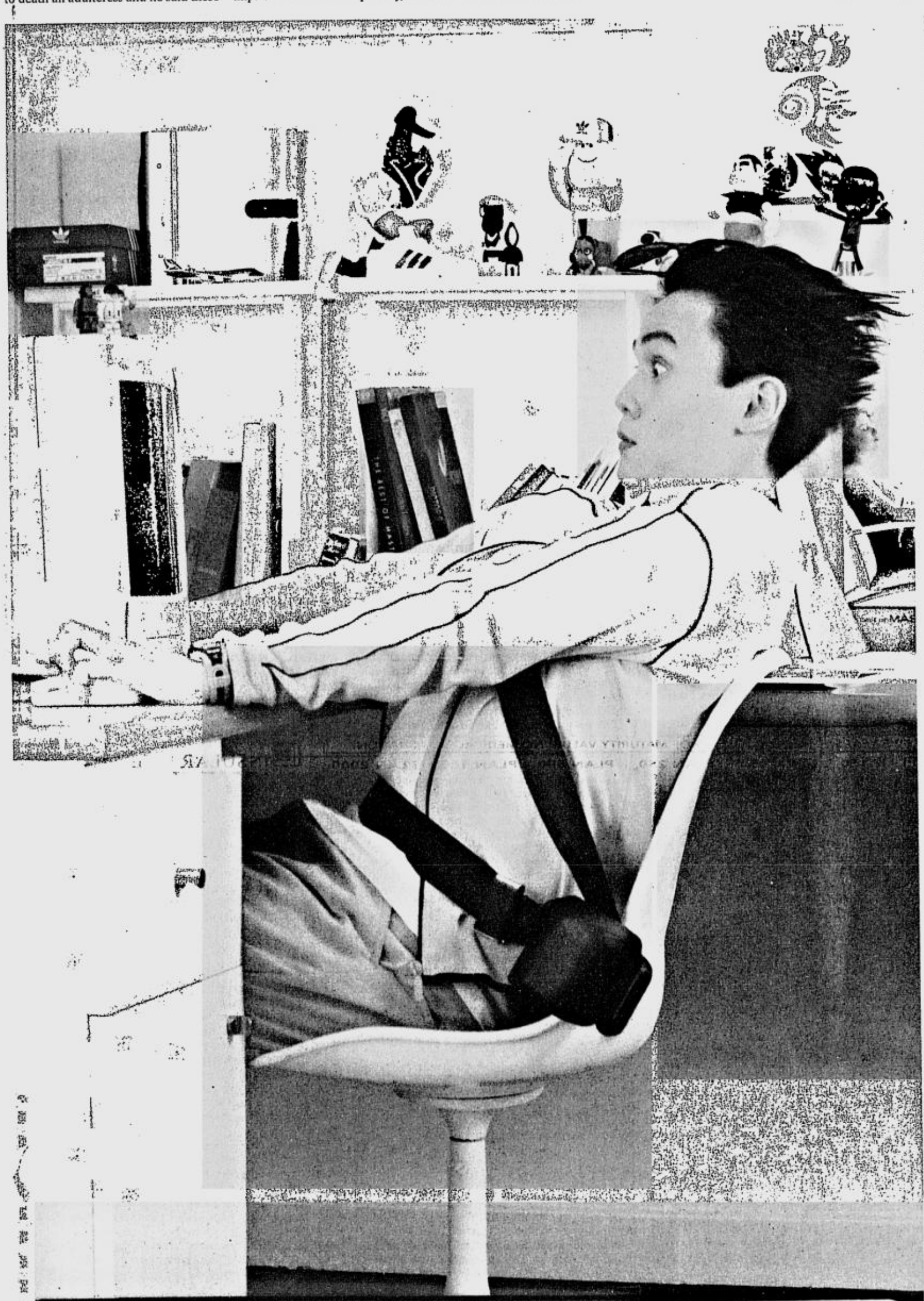
The Bible clearly says that criminals should not be punished by death. According to the Ten Commandments, we should not kill, and that is, in all circumstances and situations. In John 8:3-7, Jesus' stand on the issue is clearly stated. He stopped the people who were stoning to death an adulteress and he said these words: "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." All men have sinned, so no one has the right to kill others.

The Bill of Human Rights is also against the implementation of the death penalty. It states that every man has the right to live. One of the government's responsibilities is to protect the people's rights. If the government will implement the death penalty, then it will be guilty of depriving this right. Man does not have the control over other people's lives because he was not the one who created them. And if the government uses the death penalty to punish criminals, then it will also be guilty of committing the same crime that those criminals once committed. The government should lead the fight against crimes, not contribute to the increase in death rate.

LETTERS

The death penalty does not really help in lowering the crime rate. It should be abolished.

—JENI ESTEBAN,
13 Valerio Kalaw St.,
Tierra Bella Homes, Quezon City



Ifma properly approved

THIS is in response to the news item headlined "DENR cancels forestry contract" (PDI, 1/23/04, P. A7), on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' cancellation of the 34,600-hectare Integrated Forest Management Agreement (Ifma) with Timberland Forest Products Inc. (TFPI) in General Nakar, Quezon.

According to the report, the Ifma, which was approved by former Environment Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez in November 2002, was recalled allegedly on grounds of fraud, misrepresentation and omission of material facts.

The DENR's cancellation of TFPI's Ifma was reportedly based on the firm's alleged failure to show sufficient proof of financial and technical capability; violation of the "first-come, first-served" rule in awarding the Ifma, and lack of validly approved Ifma site.

As legal counsel of the Office of the DENR Secretary at that time, allow me to clarify the issues.

The awarding of any Ifma is governed by a DENR administrative order, specifically DAO No. 99-53, which provides an intricate system of checks and balances.

Under DAO 99-53, before Ifma applications reach the desk of the environment secretary, they are first processed beginning at the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro), the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro), the Office of the Regional Executive Director (RED), and the Forest Management Bureau (FMB).

Each concerned office independently evaluates, reviews and re-evaluates the application and prepares their respective recommendations separately. Should one application fail in one office, it is returned to the next lower office for further compliance by the applicant.

Only after proper processing and upon favorable recommendation of the field offices is an application sent to the environment secretary for approval.

On the alleged violation of the "first-come, first-served" rule, Section 11.1 of DAO 99-53 states that the acceptance and processing of Ifma applications shall be based on certain requirements, among which is "the completeness of the documents submitted." Records from the concerned DENR field offices showed that the other Ifma applicants failed to submit the required documents. Hence, TFPI was served first.

Likewise, a Nov. 8, 2002 memorandum from the FMB attests that TFPI satisfied the requirement of proof of financial and technical capability.

A certification dated Oct. 24, 2002 from the RED, Calabarzon Region, also attests that the area applied for Ifma by TFPI is available and suited for the purpose.

DENR records show that Alvarez's approval of the Ifma was aboveboard, went through the extensive process mandated by law and was cleared by all the offices concerned.

—MICHELLE D. GO,
Dollfuss R. Go and
Associates Law Offices, Butuan City

For the sake of accuracy

THE OMNIBUS Election Code provides for 45-day and 90-day campaign periods for local and national elections, respectively. The Commission on Elections then set the campaign period for the 2004 local elections from March 25, 2004 to May 8, 2004 and for the national elections from Feb. 10, 2004 to May 8, 2004. However, a closer look reveals that the Comelec allows only 89 days for national elections, a day short of the prescribed period.

This may not really matter, for many candidates started campaigning way ahead of the allowed period (in violation of the law), but for the sake of correctness and accuracy, the Comelec should rectify this mistake.

—WILFREDO F. CACNIO,
153 Don Basilio, Bautista Blvd.,
Hulong Duhat, Malabon City

Philippine environment report documented

IN REPLY to Horacio Ramos' "concern" over our report on the state of the Philippine environment, we have documents to support it. As a matter of fact, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources itself collated the documents in the last 12 months of our audit.

The report on the pygmy forest was submitted by the tribal communities in Davao Oriental. The office of Rep. J. Mayo Almario even requested us to help in asking the legislators improve the bill on the pgymy forest.

As for the hydrometallugical plant in Palawan, we leave that to God because as Ramos said, the mining company has all the permits and blessings of the government.

As for the Paracale pollution, it is to the credit of Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun that she stopped the operations there. However, the government, through its local regulatory board, believes that it has the last say, as per the Local Government Code of 1990.

We would like to emphasize that we know that the national government is trying its best to protect the environment. We are merely helping the government as a volunteer.

—LEONARDA N. CAMACHO,
Commission on Science and Technology,
United Nations Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization,
National Commission of the Philippines,
DFA Bldg., 2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

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P 200,000 Total Cash Benefit	P 300,000 Total Cash Benefit	P 400,000 Total Cash Benefit	P 500,000 Total Cash Benefit	P 1,000,000 Total Cash Benefit	P 2,000,000 Total Cash Benefit	P 4,000,000 Total Cash Benefit

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21-30	2,246.75	23,045.00	3,345.75	34,317.50	4,444.75	45,590.00	5,543.75	56,862.50	11,038.75	113,225.00	22,028.75	225,950.00	44,008.75	451,400.00
31-40	2,264.75	23,232.00	3,372.75	34,598.00	4,480.75	45,964.00	5,588.75	57,330.00	11,128.75	114,160.00	22,208.75	227,820.00	44,368.75	455,140.00
41-50	2,356.75	24,178.00	3,510.75	36,017.00	4,664.75	47,856.00	5,818.75	59,695.00	11,588.75	118,890.00	23,128.75	237,280.00	46,208.75	474,060.00
51-55	2,539.75	26,045.00	3,785.25	38,817.50	5,030.75	51,590.00	6,276.25	64,362.50	12,503.75	128,225.00	24,958.75	255,950.00	49,868.75	511,400.00

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Age: — **Place of Birth:** — **Gender:** ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE
Occupation: — **Company:** — **Monthly Income:**
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IMPORTANT : If yes, please furnish details (name of company, policy number, and amount of insurance being replaced).

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Soldiers told to stay neutral

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Stay neutral or face sanctions, Major General Glen Rabonza, commanding general of the Army's 8th Infantry Division based in Samar, told soldiers here.

Rabonza assured the people of Eastern Visayas that no soldiers under his command would ever engage in any act that would tend to promote the candidacy of a particular candidate.

He said that during their recent information education training, he reminded his soldiers that engaging on political acts other than casting votes are not part of the sworn duties.

He stressed that he would not hesitate to punish those who would violate this prohibition. Anyone found to have engaged in partisan politics would face sanctions like facing violations of elections rules and dismissal from service, he said.

So far, Rabonza said, he has yet to receive a report of this kind.

The commanding general of the 8th ID, which is based in Camp Maulong, Catbalogan town in Samar, said he has been closely working with Chief Supt. Dionisio Coloma Jr., police regional chief, toward achieving a peaceful and orderly conduct of elections in Eastern Visayas.

Both the Army and the Philippine National Police are deputized agencies under the Commission on Elections during the election period.

Coloma had earlier identified some areas in the region where untoward incidents relative to the coming May 10 elections could erupt.

The areas of concern (AOCs) so far identified by Coloma included the cities of Calbayog in Samar and Ormoc in Leyte and the towns of Merida, Palompon, Albuera and Isabel in Leyte; and Gandara, Pagsanjan and Sta. Magarita in Samar.

The AOCs were identified based on the prevailing intense political rivalries and the presence of partisan armed men.

Rabonza said they have strictly enforced their checkpoints in the different areas to deter NPA members from disrupting the elections.

THE CHANGEABLE Hawk-eagle.
PHOTO FROM TANGGOL KALIKASAN

Group saves wounded eagle from captivity

LUCENA CITY—An environmental group rescued an injured "Changeable Hawk-eagle" (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*) from the care of a peasant couple in Barangay San Pedro in Luisiana, Laguna and helped transfer the bird to the Center for Philippine Raptors in Los Baños, Laguna.

Janet Geneblazo-Buelo, staff member of Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog, a legal defense center for the environment here, said Luisiana priest Monsignor Jerry Bitoon last Wednesday asked her group for emergency assistance for a wounded eagle in the protection of his neighbor.

"The eagle was in a pitiful condition inside a cage when we first saw it. His head was wounded and his left wing broken," Buelo said as she showed to reporters a video of the rescue operation.

Buelo said a certain Danny Perdines, accidentally shot the starving eagle last October while trying to catch it.

"We were told that the eagle had been preying on the farmer's chicks and later on, even the puppies," Jay Lim, Tanggol Kalikasan community organizer, said.

"The wife of the farmer told us that it was an accidental shot," she told reporters. The bird was hit on his left shoulder while flying and fell to the ground.

The couple kept the wounded eagle inside a wired cage and took care of the bird by feeding him with leftover foods.

"But when somebody informed the couple that there's a law that prohibits possessing an eagle as a pet without permission from the government, the Perdineses immediately sought Monsignor Bitoon for help," Lim said.

Michael Sanchez, biologist and project site officer of the raptors center in the University of the Philippines at Los Baños' Makiling Botanical Garden, told the rescuers that the "changeable hawk-eagle" is an endangered specie in Asia.

The center's staff said the eagle even when fully recovered, will no longer be fit to survive the harsh forest condition because of the effect of his injuries. Instead, he will just stay under the care of the center. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Remove campaign materials, local candidates asked

DAVAO CITY—The Commission on Elections in Southern Mindanao has given political candidates three days to tear down posters, streamers or billboards that bear their faces and names.

Lirio Joquino, Comelec 11 regional director, said the putting up of such materials outside the campaign period is unlawful.

The campaign period for local officials starts in March yet.

Joquino said if they could not tear down the said materials, candidates, including incumbent officials running for the May 10 polls, should at least cover their pictures or names in posters or billboards promoting government projects.

"If you can't tear them down, cover it," Joquino told candidates during Friday's briefing here about the Fair Elections Act.

She said under the law, calendars and greetings on streamers, billboards or pamphlets with names of politicians are considered campaign materials.

Joquino admitted that election officers, who have been conducting inspections around the region, noted an increase in the number of propaganda materials being posted as the election draws near.

She said after the warning, politicians have until today to comply or face charges for violation of election laws. ***PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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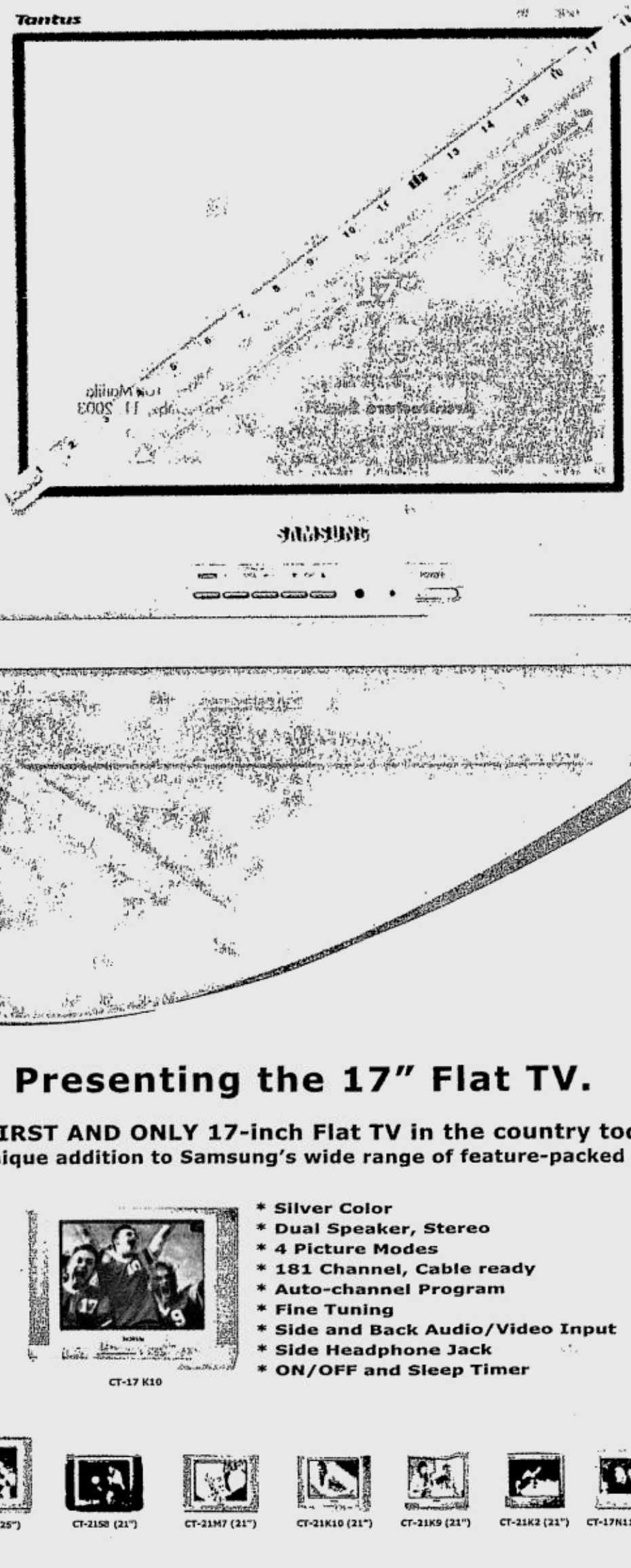

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Radio men face arrest

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Dismissed employees of Bombo Radyo station in Tacloban City face arrest after they were charged with grave coercion in connection with a labor dispute with the network's management.

Charged before Branch 2 of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC) in Tacloban City were Allan Amistoso, president of the dyWR Bombo Radyo-Tacloban Employees Union and union officials and members Lindo Villarin, Nestor Martinez, Mark Morallos, Roy Tolibas, Alberto Palmaira, Fe Talacay, Noel Makabingkil, Joseph Ancheta, Emrick Talacay, and Jonathan Rosal.

The court has set a P12,000-bail bond for each of the accused.

The former employees are accused of physically threatening Cleofe Bonife, secretary of Star-FM, sister station of dyWR, and preventing her from entering the station. Both stations hold office at the same building.

In a statement, the Leyte chapter of the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines said the filing of criminal charge against the dismissed workers is "adding insult to injury."

Amistoso said they have filed a motion to suspend the issuance of warrants of arrests before the MTCC pending the resolution of a petition for review filed before the regional prosecutor's office.

Negros treasury officer probed

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Negros Oriental Provincial Treasurer's Office is investigating one of its disbursing officers for failure to liquidate some P2 million in cash advances.

Acting provincial treasurer Danilo Mendez disclosed that the post audit conducted by the Commission on Audit showed that the disbursing officer, whom he did not identify pending result of the investigation, has failed to liquidate the advances he made from 1999 to 2001.

The cash advances involved funds meant for maintenance and operations expenditures.

An employee of the treasurer's office said the subject of the investigation attempted to falsify a check lately, despite the irregularity having been uncovered already.

Mendez said the internal control system of the province must also be looked into to determine how such an irregularity was not immediately noticed.
Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau

Cavite execs accused of pocketing ₱11M

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE MAYOR and treasurer of Noveleta, Cavite could face graft and corruption charges after the provincial treasurer uncovered "questionable withdrawals of public funds" amounting to P11 million.

Cavite Vice Gov. Jonvic Remulla on Tuesday said he had asked provincial treasurer Salome Landas to check out the finance status of Noveleta after learning that the local government failed to pay the salaries of more than 100 casual employees for December 2003 and January. He said the provincial council also received complaints of irregular salaries from the town's regular employees.

"They told us that the Noveleta government couldn't release their salaries because they (local government) had supposedly run out of funds. But the (employees) didn't buy Mayor (Dionisio) Torres' excuse and urged the local officials to pay them," Remulla told the INQUIRER.

Later that day, Remulla said Torres was able to pay the employees after the local government got a P500,000-emergency loan from the Landbank.

Landas' inspection of the town's financial records on Jan. 12 revealed "questionable withdrawals" from the town's funds deposited in Landbank-Cavite City branch made in December by municipal treasurer Linda Vales. Landas found out that the withdrawals lacked documents.

Remulla said the withdrawals, totaling P11 million, were all signed by Torres himself and were labeled as cash advances.

Contacted by phone on Friday, Torres admitted having signed documents releasing some vouchers but denied conniving with Vales in the withdrawal of the funds.

He said he never allowed the disbursement of "such big money." He only signed several documents with cash advances and payments amounting to P5,000 to P10,000 each, he explained.

"Yes. I authorized the release of some (payouts) but never have I allowed the release of P11 million. I did not connive with Vales in pocketing the money. The people (in the treasurer's office) can attest to that," he said.

The mayor accused Vales of tampering and falsifying the documents that he had endorsed originally. He cited a document wherein the initial amount noted in the voucher was P10,000. But after he had affixed his signature on the paper, Torres said Vales added the "number 5 on the actual amount to make it appear that I authorized the release of P510,000."

He said the local government had already filed charges of malversation of public funds and falsification of public documents against Vales before the Office of the Ombudsman last Jan. 30. He said he had named municipal disbursing and collection officers Vick Nicanor and Girlie Marculla as major witnesses "who will prove my innocence."

He likewise accused his political opponents of using the issue against him. "Although they know that I didn't commit any wrongdoing, still they're trying to drag me into this mess. It's pretty obvious that some people are letting my political opponents ruin my personality," he lamented.

Torres, a stalwart of the administration party Lakas-CMD, is running for another term. Remulla, on the other hand, is from the rival Magdalo Party.

The provincial council was set to summon Torres and other local officials to a formal inquiry, Remulla said. The mayor said he was willing to face any inquiries about the controversy.

Vales had gone into hiding, Remulla said. Vales' husband had approached him for help and insisted on his wife's innocence, and pointing to Torres as the culprit, the vice governor said.

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September 12, 2003

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Jose Crisostomo
Allan Ranches
Benedict Pesa
Catalino Santiago, Jr.
Roland Icaro
Jackie Sedaria
Jay Dave Robin
Oscar Usaraga, Jr.

ChE Undergraduate Student Research Poster Contest held at University of Santo Tomas
January 16, 2004

3rd Placer
(TIP Quezon City)
Ruth Jade Canlas

CIVIL ENGINEERING

1st National Civil Engineering Quiz for a Cause
September 7, 2003

2nd Runner-Up (Team Competition)
2nd Runner-Up (School Competition)
(TIP Quezon City)
Niño G. Payduan
Jerome P. Mendoza
Jocelyn Anne A. Santos

PICE National Civil Engineering Student Quiz Regional Elimination
October 27, 2003

3rd Place
(TIP Quezon City)
Niño G. Payduan
Jerome P. Mendoza

COMMERCE & ACCOUNTANCY

Inter-School Accounting Quiz held at University of Santo Tomas
December 15, 2003

3rd Place
(TIP Manila)
Cynthia Pajarillo

ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERING

IECEP/ECE 3rd National Sportsfest held at University of Perpetual Help Rizal - Las Piñas
October 12, 2003

CHAMPION
(TIP Manila)
Froilan Pineda (Student Coach)
Allan Mendiola
Wilson Del Finado
Giovanni Mallari
Maximo Ramos
John Paul Bersola
Ritchelle Dacuma
Jeffrey Alvarez
Aristotle Naces
Joseph Mandocdoc
Mark Gabasan
Roberto Malapad
Alex Tamayo

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Mechanical Engineering Student Congress On-the-Spot Design Contest held at Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila
October 14 - 15, 2003

Champion
(TIP Quezon City)
Philip Froilan Ramirez
Ma. Cristina Laurel
Sharon Cruzado
Dick Manuel Clemente
Louwell Gueta
Fernando dela Cruz
Renualdo Sy
Jesus Sarmiento
Elmer Guiral
Mervin Velazquez

ARCHITECTURE

Architecture Quiz Bee Competition 8th UAPSA General Assembly held at Long Beach Resort, Bauang, La Union
October 27 - 29, 2003

Champion (Team)
(TIP Quezon City)
Jefferson R. Caronan
Menard L. Rendora

Champion (Individual)
(TIP Quezon City)
Jefferson R. Caronan

1st Runner-Up (Team)
(TIP Quezon City)
Herbert R. Recato
Almie Acuña

1st Runner-Up (Individual)
(TIP Quezon City)
Herbert R. Recato

Champion
(TIP Quezon City)
Larry A. Gayundato
Ma. Divina V. Fabellar

1st Runner-Up
(TIP Quezon City)
Ma. Cristina Doctor
Alma Jane F. Forman

Architecture Rendering Competition 8th UAPSA General Assembly held at Long Beach Resort, Bauang, La Union
October 27 - 29, 2003

Champion
(TIP Quezon City)
Jerome Suaiso

Architecture Sand Sculpture Competition 8th UAPSA General Assembly held at Long Beach Resort, Bauang, La Union
October 27 - 29, 2003

Champion
(TIP Quezon City)
Raymond Ancajas
Eugene Manarang
Kristoffer Santos
Audie Chris Agustin

ASAPhil National Quiz Competition held at TIP Quezon City
November 24, 2003

Champion (Group)
(TIP Quezon City)
Menard Rendora
Junel Salamanes
Rebecca Barby Pornea

Champion (Individual)
(TIP Quezon City)
Menard Rendora

1st Runner-Up (Individual)
(TIP Quezon City)
Carlota de Guzman

2nd Runner-Up (Group)
(TIP Quezon City)
Carlota de Guzman
Frances Joy Francisco
Happy San Pedro

ASAPhil National Quiz Design Competition held at TIP Quezon City
November 24, 2003

Champion
(TIP Quezon City)
Matthew Gimena
Jeckson Magboo

1st Runner Up
(TIP Quezon City)
Jerome Suaiso
Larry Gayundato

Arki Quiz Bee held during the Nationwide Architecture Week
December 7 - 13, 2003

Champion
(TIP Quezon City)
Jefferson R. Caronan
Herbert A. Recato
Rebecca Barby Pornea

24th National Super Quiz Bee held at Atrium, Ali Mall Cubao, Quezon City
November 14, 2003

1st Runner-Up
(TIP Quezon City)
Rey-An U. Tanes

Tile Mosaic Competition held at TUP Manila
December 11, 2003

1st Place
(TIP Manila)
Jefferson Canare
Rhealiza Romero
Golda Mae Dela Cruz
Adonis Perez
Albert Rausa

Design and Rendering Competition held during the National Architecture Week
December 7 - 13, 2003

2nd Place
(TIP Quezon City)
Matthew G. Gimena

Tile Mosaic Competition held during the National Architecture Week
December 7 - 13, 2003

2nd Place
(TIP Quezon City)
Reyel S. Calano
Ryan Carpio
Mary May Paña

Architecture Quiz Bee held at Far Eastern University
December 12, 2003

3rd Place
(TIP Manila)
Darwin Niño Formento
Melchor Gomez
Ma. Cecilia Sucgang

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11th Place
Civil Engineering Licensure Examination

ENGR. BRIAN JAMES D. PUNZALAN
18th Place
Electronics & Communications Engineering Licensure Examination

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Makati principal tops Gintong Ilawan Awards

From page A1

ery time she rallies them to help save the environment, she remembers her hometown of Butuan City.

For Arriola, 33 years on the job have only made clearer her purpose as an educator. She has taken education to a level of higher personal motivation, encouraging her teachers to "adopt"—for guidance and material provision—one kid each from the poorest communities, and tapping the youth to save, and earn from, scraps.

Arriola, 55, was adjudged the best principal in the country from among 16 regional finalists in the Gintong Ilawan Awards sponsored by Avon Cosmetics. The search for most outstanding public elementary school principal is held every four years.

"I didn't think I stood a chance, because people had the impression that if you teach in Makati, you have everything you need, since it is the business capital of the country," Arriola said Friday during an interview at the Pembo Elementary School, where she is on her seventh year as principal.

In fact, what she has seen after three decades of living and teaching in the supposedly richest city, is that it hosts some of the poorest children. It is nothing less than a feat that she has offered them the best of both worlds.

Pembo is Makati's biggest primary school, with 5,162 elementary and 270 kindergarten pupils, and 142 teachers. It is located in a congested part of the city where urban poor families often squat to save on rentals.

DR. TERESITA Voluntad Arriola, principal of the Pembo Elementary School (Metro Manila) and adjudged national winner of the Gintong Ilawan Awards, poses with the regional finalists behind her: Anita de los Reyes, Ilocos; Dominda Malsi, Cagayan Valley; Luzviminda Monta, Central Luzon; Flordeliza Lumubos, Calabarzon; Priscilla Tamayosa, Mimaropa; Aida Francisco, Bicol; Nenita Villa, Western Visayas; Evelyn Guleb, Central Visayas; Imelda Valenzuela, Eastern Visayas; Elidia Hebron, Western Mindanao; Linda Jumancito, Northern Mindanao; Nora Nerpiol, Central Mindanao; Greshelda Monterola, Caraga; Dayamon Lalia, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao; and Albina Dominguez, Cordillera Autonomous Region.

Transforming a school

When Arriola first set foot in it, the school did not have concrete activity areas and the students ranked 20th among 27 schools in the division evaluation, with an alarming drop-out rate.

Now the school is completely transformed. Pembo is now rated 10th best school in Metro Manila, and considered the "most child-friendly." The graduation rate has reached 97 percent, the drop-out rate less than one percent.

Arriola worked incessantly to make the local government erect two additional buildings and give the teachers a P1,500 monthly allowance on top of their salary.

She enrolled 61 malnourished students in the school's "Project Bowls" (Brain Operates With Loaded Stomach), a daily feeding program. The rest she and her teachers have taken under their wing through "Adopt-A-Child," in which every teacher looks after the mental and physical well-being of a "ward."

The principal was soon serving outside of her school, too. As vice president of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines in Makati, Arriola created Angels, or Agents of New Generation Environment Leaders and Saviors. Last year, the group raised some P262,000 by gathering and selling scraps in their communities.

Arriola said her crusade to revive the city environment stemmed from the guilt she felt after visiting Mindanao where she grew up, and finding that its forests had been destroyed. Her father, a fisherman in Laguna de Bay, had decided to relocate to Butuan City to work in a logging concession when she was very young, she recounted. Somehow, she felt that her family's source of income had contributed to the destruction.

"I'm sort of trying to make up for that," Arriola admitted. "I want to save what I can."

Taking in 'rejects'

Fresh from the Urios College in Butuan, Arriola came to Manila in 1969, on vacation with her parents. But after taking and topping the division exam for teachers in Rizal, she realized she could teach anywhere, and decided to stay.

She was first assigned to the La Paz Elementary School, and then transferred to the San Isidro Elementary School, where she handled the last section which, she said, consisted of the rebellious students and slow learners.

"I volunteered to take in the 'rejects,'" Arriola recalled. After 12 years of doing this, her superiors noted the big improvement in the children, and offered her any promotion of her choice. She decided to try administration and become a principal.

"My father was very proud of me," she said. "He had dreamt to be educated, and (failing this) he drove his children to excellence."

Her first assignment as a principal in 1983 was a most shocking reality check. West Rembo Elementary School had no toilets. Teachers brought their own dippers, and the children queued at the nearest drainage canal outside the campus.

When local government officials declined her request for funds, she turned to the parents. They raised the funds themselves and built toilets.

'I'm needed here'

"You have to work for what you want. We cannot just rely on the government," said Arriola, who is now president of the Philippine Elementary Schools Principal Association. She has been instrumental in raising principals' salary grade two notches.

She has also learned to tap nongovernment organizations, Rotary clubs and other private firms to support her projects.

At Pembo, Arriola and her teachers formed a Wednesday Club. They invite speakers to discuss relevant national issues, and trainers to help them with special skills. Occasionally, they catch a movie together.

Her urgent concern at the moment is that some of her best teachers are being offered jobs abroad. Already, Pembo has lost two very good math teachers to schools in the United States. Arriola said the latest evaluation showed a drop in the student's math grades.

"We are losing the best because of economic conditions," she lamented, but quickly added: "I am staying because I know I am needed here."

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Gov't wants peace with Reds by May

From page A1

"We are quite confident this time that we will be able to push the talks forward (and achieve) lasting peace," he said, noting the NDF's more "open and positive" attitude."

But Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is not optimistic that a final agreement could be reached before the national elections.

Rosal said it was possible that agreements on some issues could be reached before the elections, but a final settlement of the insurgency was unlikely in just a few months.

Talking points

Bello said the three-month timeframe was "logical" only if the NDF panel would agree to hold simultaneous discussions on three main points: social and economic reforms, political and constitutional reforms, and end to hostilities and disposition of forces.

Jalandoni said the NDF panel was amenable to the proposal. "Everything will really depend on how both panels will work and on the political will of the government," he said.

The rebels had rejected such a proposal in the past, preferring to take up their demands one at a time.

Among the crucial issues that would have to be resolved are the terrorist tag on the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, and the indemnification of human rights victims during the Marcos dictatorship.

Jalandoni said the NDF would ask the government panel to issue a resolution to pressure the United States and the Council of the European Union into removing the CPP and NPA from their list of "foreign terrorist organizations."

In a complaint letter to Bello on Feb. 21, 2003, Jalandoni said the tag and the subsequent freezing of Jose Maria Sison's assets and "nonexistent" bank accounts violated the provisions of the 1992 Hague Joint Declaration. Sison founded the CPP and now serves as NDF consultant during the peace talks.

Campaign fees

Besides the resolution, Jalandoni said the NDF would seek a "guarantee" that martial law victims, numbering nearly 10,000, would receive the P11-billion compensation allocated for them.

In an interview with RMN radio, Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the government panel would raise the issue of campaign fees that the NPA was demanding from candidates. The talks coincide with the start of the 90-day campaign period tomorrow.

Ms Macapagal has denounced the NPA collection of campaign fees as plain extortion. She vowed not to pay a single centavo when she campaigns in communist strongholds. However, some administration candidates have reportedly paid the fees to the NPA.

Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita said government forces would conduct operations against the NPA.

The NDF was also not keen on putting its guard down.

Jalandoni said the NDF might agree to a brief ceasefire, but added that a long truce would not be acceptable.

He said the NDF would discuss a prolonged ceasefire with the government only after both parties have completed the social and political reform aspects of the negotiation.

Another round

He said both panels would most likely conduct another round of formal talks in March or April to check on the accomplishments of subcommittees on the three main talking points.

By this time, he said the Joint Monitoring Committee should have already been set up.

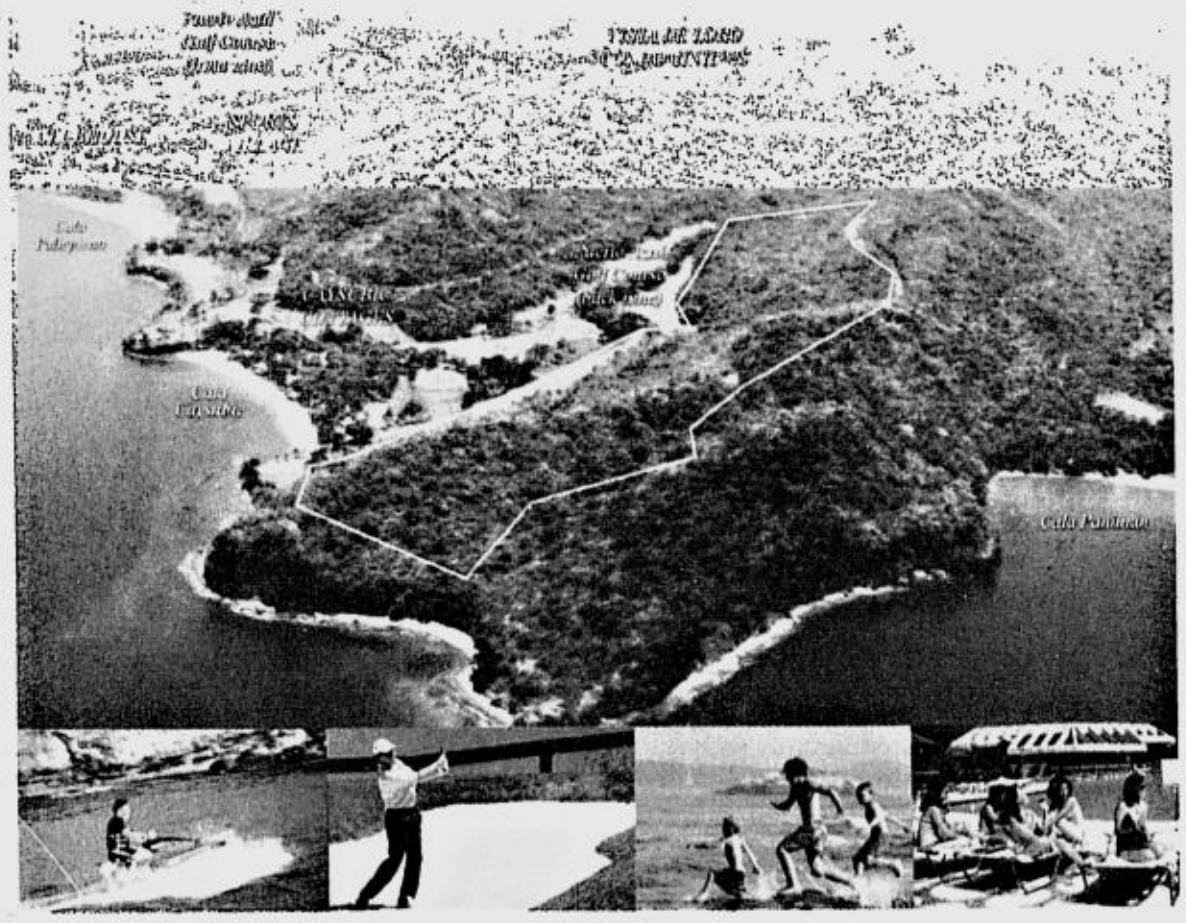
Among its functions is to oversee the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, which was approved on March 16, 1998. The pact governs the armed conflict between the armed forces of both panels.

Norway brokered the last round of failed negotiations three years ago. The government halted the talks in mid-2001 when the rebels assassinated a number of politicians, including former Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo whom they accused of human rights violations.

There are currently about 10,000 NPA fighters with 7,000 firearms, according to the military.

With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Carlito Pablo

German pilot to fly museum ...



From page A1

gistical nightmare transporting the plane from one side of the earth to the other."

The Philippine government has featured the Do-24ATT on limited commemorative stamps in celebration of the aviation industry centennial this year.

Promoting RP

"We want to hit the destinations. We want to visit many, many people and show them this aircraft around. We have the intention to invite business partners for the Philippines, to come to the Philippines, to invest in our company or in the Philippines to improve what needs to be improved here," Dornier told the INQUIRER.

He said the plane's stopovers would include the Hudson River in New York, Hong Kong's harbor, and the coasts of South America.

Germany and Switzerland are also in the route because Claude first launched the Do-24 in those countries.

While the world tour is every bit a sales pitch for the Philippines, Dornier will also bring into this undertaking a sense of heritage. The plane, he said, has "sentimental value for me."

"It represents the spirit of my grandfather and the family Dornier, which stands for quality and commitment. I'm trying to continue to live that way and to be that way with my coworkers and people, to work hard, and to focus on the right thing to do and provide some quality that is needed here," he said.

Dornier may have imbibed his grandfather's love for building and flying planes, and contributing pioneering achievements in aviation history.

'Flying boat'

Gitsis, writing for Seair's magazine In-Flight, said Claude built the world's largest "flying boat," the Do-X. The 12-engine and three-deck aircraft flew successfully in 1929. On board were 169 passengers.

"[Claude] Dornier made and broke many records and still holds many. One record Dornier still holds is that of the fastest series piston engine aircraft, the Do335 built in 1943 as a multipurpose fighter aircraft," Gitsis wrote.

Gitsis said Claude built the Do31 three years before his death in 1969. It was the "first and still the only vertical take-off jet transport built in the world." Gitsis said.

By the time of his death, Claude had designed more than 70 aircraft models.

But Claude's biggest contribution was in the aspect of aviation engineering. Claude, according to Gitsis, "established the three basic principles which were to guide the entire development of the aircraft industry over the next century." These were the use of "metal structural frames (versus wood); use of smooth aluminum skin surfaces (versus cloth and corrugated metal); and components must be connected by rivets and screws."

Patterned after whales

The Do-24ATT, according to Dornier, evolved from the line of aircraft that Claude patterned after whales.

"He loved the ocean, he loved the sea and enjoyed building planes," Dornier said of his grandfather.

Dornier's world tour takes off as soon as the major sponsors are finalized.

"I'm very limited with my funds but I, more or less, have given my heart and my soul to this company," he said.

He is, as he avowed, a pilot and businessman "with full faith in the Philippines."

"It's going to a point where you have realized that there is no perfect place on this earth, and I believe the Philippines is definitely a country with a lot of future. And I hope to do my part that this country will improve one way or the other and even though it takes a lot of time," he said.

What he particularly likes about the country are its workers.

"I like very much to work with Filipinos; they're very intelligent and hardworking. All they need is a little bit of guidance and I believe this is what the country needs. This is an extraordinary country and has a lot of potentials also in tourism development," Dornier said.

Seair's operations began in Clark in 1994 when it was still buried under tons of Mt. Pinatubo's ash and sand.

From one Dornier plane doing once-a-day flights to Boracay and Palawan, the company now has nine 19-seat LET410 planes.

Gitsis said the firm's gross revenues grew by 25 percent last year.

After the world tour, the Do-24ATT will join Seair's fleet as a luxury charter plane for exclusive resorts and travelers.

Glass dome

The aircraft's original gun dome has been converted to a glass dome. This two-seater area provides a full view of the sky. The 19-seater plane has a bar, kitchen, television monitors and leather seats.

Gitsis said chartering the plane would cost P150,000 an hour.

"This is a commitment to doing a unique project. This is not a money-making venture. It's an investment in the image of the company, in the image of the Philippines as a tourist and business destination," Gitsis said.

"You can't find the Do-24ATT anywhere. This is something special to the Philippines," he said.

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Presidential bets should face off on economic issues

From page A1

finalists, but the issues are not joined in that arena. They are not joined because, neither Roco nor Poe has put forward any plan that would challenge the administration's economic performance. Both candidates have not offered a better formula on policy and social programs.

Roco and Poe have refused to do battle on the issue of the economy, specifically whether Filipinos, poor or rich, will have jobs and incomes—which cannot be generated by any mere posturing as a man of the masses and having a heart bleeding for the poor while doing nothing to lift them from poverty.

Critical issue

This is why the economy is the critical issue that will determine whether a candidate is a fraudulent champion of the poor. It is impossible to engage Poe in a debate on the economy when, all he has been doing, is to duck public forums in which his views on the economy could be scrutinized.

Roco and Poe have attacked Ms Macapagal on the issues of governance and corruption, although neither has proved to be a paragon of virtue. Poe cannot make out a case for himself as incorruptible since he has not held public office and his integrity has not been tested.

There have been corruption charges against Roco during his stint at the education department, although these have been mere allegations.

The Jose Pidal case continues to haunt Ms Macapagal, but over the past few months when the case was investigated by the Senate, no hard evidence has been produced to link her directly to the scandal centered on First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

Opposition senators are reopening the Jose Pidal case in the Senate for the purpose of using it as political dynamite. Unless the opposition can offer stronger evidence than it had during last year's hearings, it cannot fight this election on the corruption issue.

Thus corruption is a non-issue. Not one of the three candidates has a superior claim to this issue. So, it's a waste of time to be wrangling over corruption, although we all fervently wish and hope that we will have a new administration that can give us a clean and honest government.

When we shift the debate to the economy, it is there where the competence of a candidate becomes the key question. None of the three front-runners can claim to incarnate all the desirable qualities for the presidency.

Ms Macapagal has zero charisma, but neither Poe nor Roco is oozing with it. Roco and Ms Macapagal have experience in public affairs. Poe's experience is absolutely nil, and he will run the presidency through trial by error, from Day 1, making his presidency an on-the-job training experience, without the basic academic preparation for rational policy decision making.

Budget deficits

Ms Macapagal's economic management is not a sparkling success story—it is marred by the staggering fiscal deficits. But even if Roco or Poe becomes president, each will also be challenged by the budget deficits.

Any of the three candidates will have to confront the question of having the political will to reform the collection machinery of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and raising the government's revenue generating capacity.

Charisma cannot make Filipinos pay their taxes correctly, any more than it can make movie actors good taxpayers. Indeed, actors (Poe's occupational category) have been a privileged lot. They have been given generous tax exemptions, and making professionals (like doctors, and lawyers) and actors pay correct taxes will pose a challenge to the next president, whoever will that be.

If Poe lifts the tax exemptions of actors and entertainers, he will be the most reviled man in the movie industry, as someone who turns traitor to his class.

The problem facing the Filipino voters is that they are trying to elect a superman or miracle worker to the presidency. They expect too much from the candidates. They can't have charisma, competence and integrity from any of the three candidates, each of whom is flawed.

By shielding Poe from the call for him to submit himself to sharp public scrutiny of his mind and his plans for the country, the opposition hopes to keep the public in the dark about this until the election, after which the voters will know whether they have been duped by the promise of putting miracle makers in the presidency.

In this election, voters cannot escape making a choice between using their heads or their heart when they go to the polling booths. The choice is made more difficult because the election is shaping up into a close race.

Tough solutions

It is not easy to love the President or anyone who offers solutions that involve biting the bullet. Poe or Roco is unlikely to ask for sacrifice and present tough measures, but the economy cannot turn around without tough solutions and measures. They choose to ignore the hard questions.

There are costs to be incurred in voting Roco or Poe for president. It is a matter of assessment of lesser costs. Roco or Poe promises gain without pain, and this promise foists a huge fraud on the voters.

It is much easier to make a choice when one candidate is romping ahead, riding on a high tide of momentum. A bandwagon effect tends to sweep undecided voters to climb aboard, the mentality being that why waste vote on apparent losers.

Our opinion polls have reflected the volatility of the public mood and unpredictability. Without the pressure of momentum effect, voters are forced to think harder about whom to vote and to weigh the consequences of their vote.

Unless the public mood changes drastically, there is no sign of an avalanche in anyone's favor in the making. Anyone who takes a bet on an avalanche based on a non-program or absence of substance is making a wild choice.

When voters begin to think hard about whom to vote—and indications are that they are counting their costs and advantages—we should expect the stalemate to harden. It is this circumstance, which produces unexpected turns taking place as election day draws closer.

The dilemma of the opposition is that the more it keeps its candidate from public scrutiny, the more it confirms the perception that Poe is hiding his inadequacies.

On the other hand, further exposure can reveal Poe's lack of substance and his propensity to talk nonsense. This has taken a toll on the myth that he is the person to beat, eroding his public opinion rating.

Palace hand seen in Ping sked foul-up

From page A1

Lito Banayo, Lacson's political adviser, said this was the second time that Malacañang had prevented the senator from appearing in an event outside Metro Manila.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's political spokesperson, however, was quick to deny Banayo's allegations. "Why would we do that? He (Lacson) is not even our political opponent," Housing Secretary Mike Defensor said.

In a statement, Banayo said Lacson had to cancel his trip to Davao City after learning that the first Tribal Datus and Elders' Convention had been postponed.

It turned out that Virgilio "Datu Sancuan" Sanico, organizer of the event, was forced to reset the event because the National Commission for the Indigenous People (NCIP) refused to release funds for the meeting, according to Banayo.

He said the NCIP had earlier agreed to foot the bill for the holding of the convention at the Grand Men Seng Hotel. But until Thursday afternoon, the agency had yet to release the payment for the venue and other expenses, forcing Datu Sancuan to scrap the event.

Banayo said that Datu Sancuan informed Lacson's advance party that Roque Agton, the NCIP regional director, had questioned the organizers for inviting Lacson as guest speaker and had even suggested that the honor should have been given to the President instead.

Banayo said that Datu Sancuan told Agton that it was the tribal leaders themselves who had invited Lacson because they wanted to see the senator in person.

Adopted son

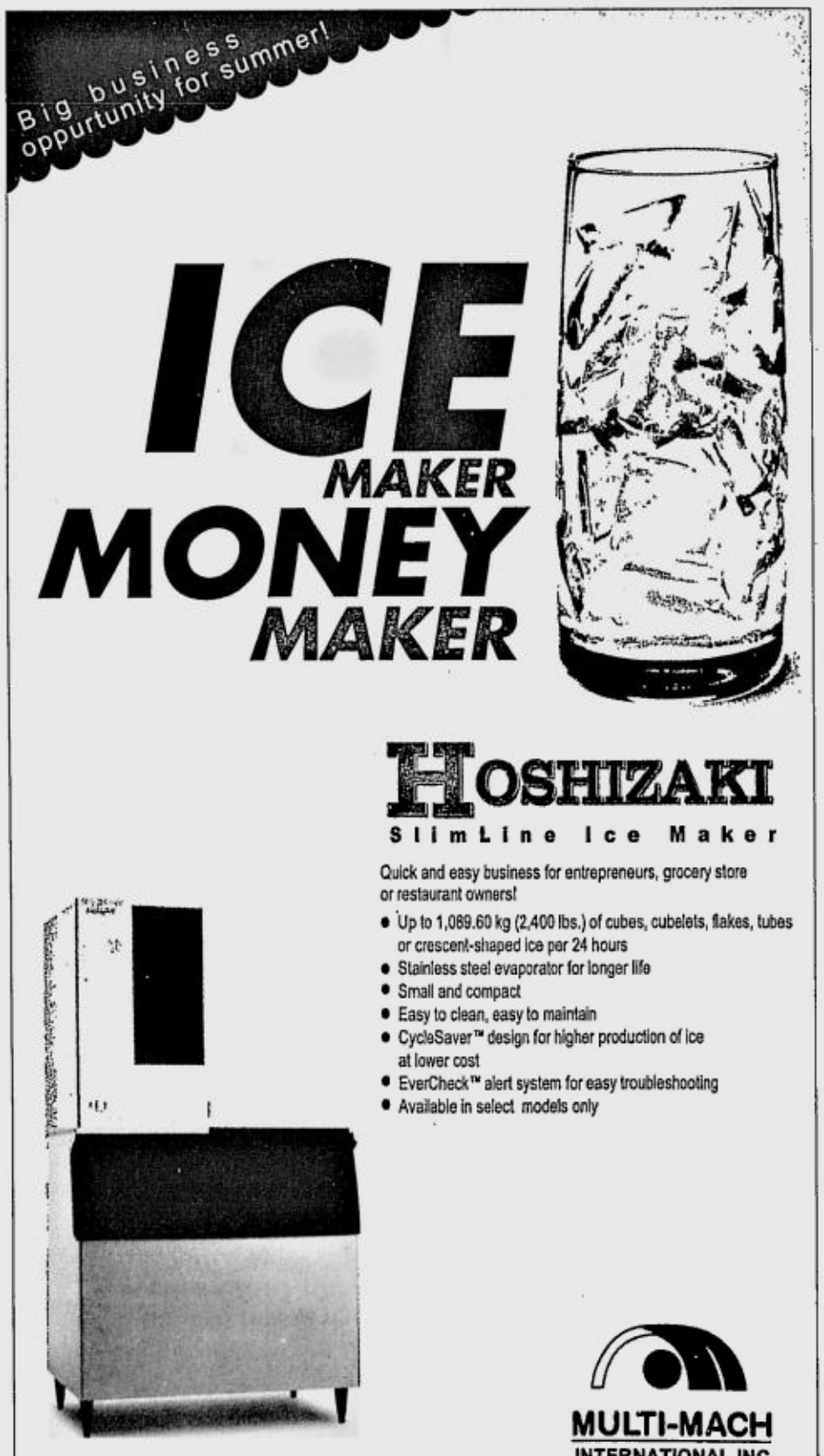
"The group of Datu Sancon wanted to declare Senator Lacson an adopted son of the Matigsalog tribe," he said.

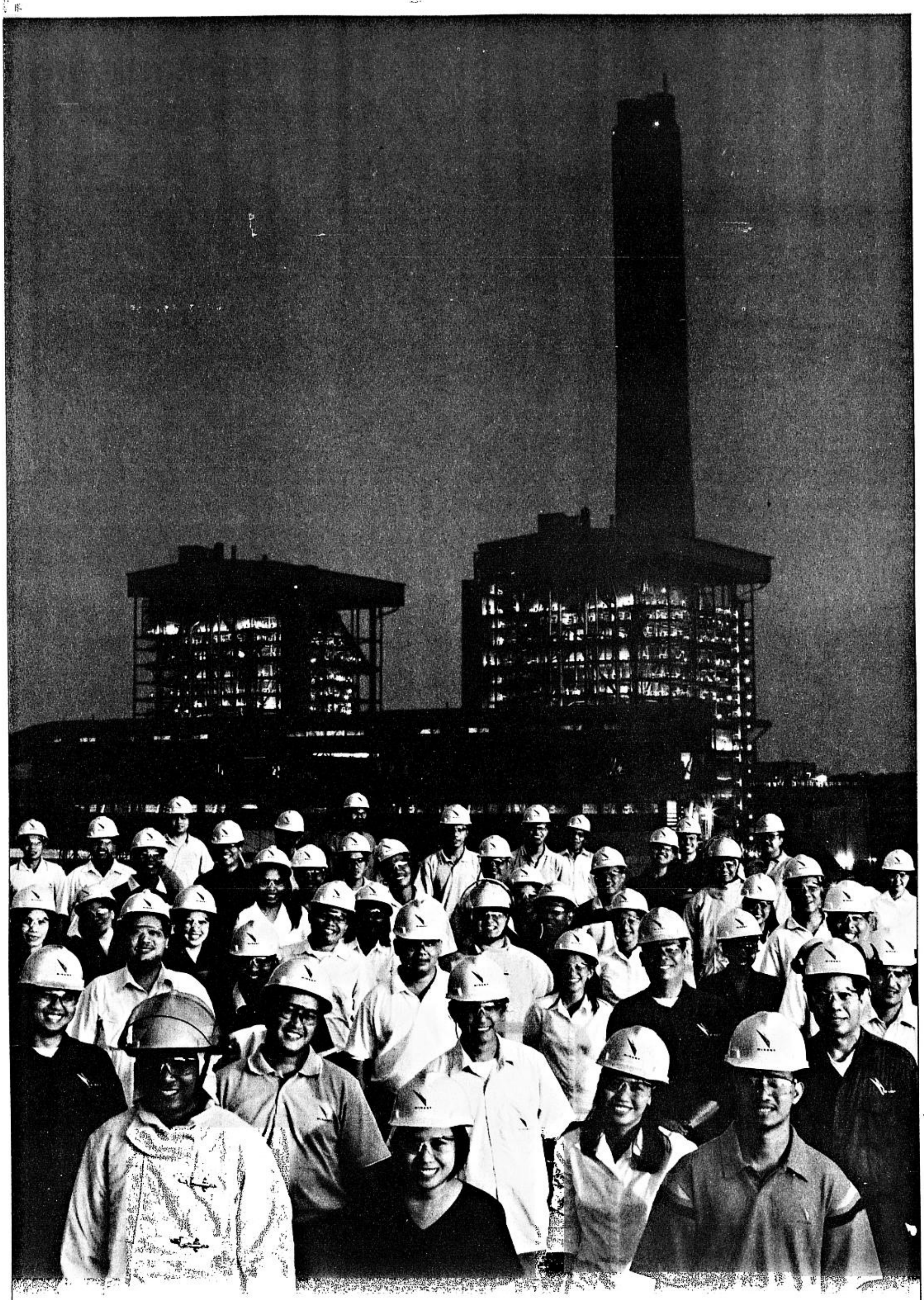
Banayo said Malacañang also prevented Lacson from meeting with rice dealers in Pangasinan who had invited him to be their guest speaker last year.

He said the organizers "received a threat from a top official of Malacañang that their permits would be revoked and their collections with the National Food Authority would be put on hold if they insisted on having Senator Lacson as their guest."

"And now they're at it again. Malacañang should stop doing dirty tricks to spare innocent people from these political harassments against Senator Lacson," he said.

Recent surveys showed Lacson trailing Fernando Poe Jr., Ms Macapagal and Raul Roco in the presidential race. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*





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METROBRIEFS

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PUP homecoming

THE COLLEGES of Economics, Finance, Political Science, Public Administration and Governance of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines will hold its alumni homecoming cum faculty-alumni fellowship on Feb. 18, 2004 at 6 p.m. at the Amado V. Hernandez Hall, P.U.P Main Library, Mabini Campus, Sta. Mesa. For more info, call Chair Alberto Guillo (Economics), Chair Severino Espiritu (Banking and Finance) and Chair Antonius Umali (Political Science, Public Administration and Governance) at 716-7832 loc. 223, 317, 224 or e-mail abetguillo@hotmail.com or rrd310@aol.com. Fax 714-0593.

KATIPUNAN TREE ROW

Raps poised against BF, MMDA

By Tina Santos and Margaux Ortiz

AN ENVIRONMENT group is now threatening to file contempt charges against Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando after work crews allegedly continued to cut trees along Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City in violation of a court order.

Ester Perez de Tagle, founder of Concerned Citizens Against Pollution (Cocap), said Fernando's men again felled trees along the avenue on Thursday and Friday night.

Court order

"They were like thieves who conduct their activities in the middle of the night when everyone is asleep," De Tagle told the INQUIRER.

"That's clearly in defiance of a court order. Does he think he is above the law?" De Tagle said.

She was referring to a temporary restraining order issued by Quezon City Regional Trial Court judge Marlene Gonzales Sison directing the MMDA from further "cutting, injuring, damaging, balling, uprooting and transferring" the remaining trees on Katipunan.

De Tagle said they were mulling the filing of contempt charges against Fernando.

Pictures

In a recent interview, Fernando said no trees were sacrificed in developing the avenue. He noted that only shrubs and bougainvilleas were recently removed when they recently built U-turn slots on the avenue.

But Annie Cruz, who headed the Greening of Katipunan Movement in 2001, said they had pictures that would prove that trees were felled by the MMDA.

She said five to seven trees were affected when the MMDA constructed five U-turn slots on the thoroughfare.

"We're wondering where the missing trees went," Cruz said in response to Fernando's statement that no trees were removed in the course of the project.

WPD empowers low rank officers

By Tarra Quismundo

EMPOWERED with greater responsibilities.

The Western Police District is lining up the more experienced among its ranks for a training that would let them better lead the rank and file.

At the same time, however, they would be made more liable for the lapses of their subordinates.

WPD Director Pedro Bulaong said some 500 Senior Police Officer 3 and Senior Police Officer 4 in the WPD would undergo a "supervisory training program" soon.

Active roles

The brief refresher course, Bulaong said, would give the SPO3s and SPO4s more active roles by letting them oversee teams of lower-ranking policemen.

And, as if to once again prove that power comes with responsibility, these policemen would be accountable if any of the men under them would err during operations.

Bulaong said the program was also a way of preparing the officers for future promotions, which would depend on their performance as supervisors.

He added that police supervisors could recommend action against policemen with poor performance.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Office 2000 (MSWord,MSExcel, MSPowerPoint) P8,000/48hrs	1:30-4:30 6:00-9:00 8:00-5:00	MWF M-F Sat	Feb23-Mar29 Feb23-Mar15 Mar22-Apr14 Feb28-Apr03
Program Logic Formulation P5,000/30hrs	1:30-4:30 9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-5:00 3:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th Fri Sat Sun	Mar01-Mar16 Mar22-Apr08 Mar22-Apr06 Mar12-Apr02 Mar06-Apr10 Mar07-Mar28
Web Page Designing using Dreamweaver P6,000/30hrs	9:00-4:00 3:30-8:30	M-F Sat	Mar22-Mar26 Mar06-Apr17
Developing Web Animations using Flash P5,500/24hrs	9:00-12:00 5:30-8:30 8:00-3:00 9:00-4:00	M-Th M-Th Sat M-Th	Mar08-Mar18 Mar22-Apr01 Mar06-Mar27 Mar29-Apr01
Macromedia Action Script (Adv. Flash) P6,000/24hrs	1:00-5:00	TWTh	Mar09-Mar18
Visual Basic.Net Fundamentals P8,500/45hrs	9:00-12:00 9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat Sun	Mar01-Mar24 Apr05-Apr29 Mar01-Mar24 Apr05-Apr29 Mar13-Apr24 Mar14-Apr25
Programming in C++ P6,500/36hrs	9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 1:30-4:30 8:00-3:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat Sun	Mar01-Mar18 Mar01-Mar18 Mar22-Apr08 Mar06-Apr10 Mar07-Apr04
JAVA Programming Fundamentals (Module 1) P7,500/42hrs	9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-3:00	M-Th M-Th Sat	Mar15-Apr06 Mar15-Apr06 Mar13-May08
Developing Applications in JAVA (Module 2) P7,500/42hrs	9:00-12:00 1:30-4:30 6:00-9:00 8:00-3:00 3:30-8:30	M-Th MThF M-Th Sun Sat	Apr19-May11 Mar15-Apr19 Apr19-May11 Mar14-May02 Mar13-Mar28
Network Technology P7,000/45hrs	9:00-12:00 1:30-4:30 6:00-9:00 9:00-5:00 9:00-5:00 9:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th Fri Sat Sun	Feb16-Mar10 Feb16-Mar10 Feb16-Mar10 Mar05-Apr30 Feb28-Apr24 Feb29-Apr25
Admin. Windows 2000 Networks P9,000/54hrs	8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	Sat Sun	Mar06-Apr10 Mar07-Apr11
Linux System Administration (Linux+) P8,200/45hrs	8:00-5:00 9:00-12:00 1:30-4:30 1:30-4:30 6:00-9:00	Sat Sun M-F M-F M-F	Mar06-Apr17 Mar07-Apr18 Mar15-Apr02 Mar01-Mar19 Mar22-Apr13 Mar01-Mar19
Linux Network Administration P5,500/30hrs	9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00	M-F M-F	Mar01-Mar12 Mar22-Apr02
CISCO 1 P8,000/70hrs	8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00 5:30-9:30	Sat Wed M/W	Apr03-May29 Mar17-May12 Mar15--Mar19
CISCO 2 P8,000/70hrs	1:00-5:00 5:30-9:30	T&W T&F	Mar15-May12 Apr06-Jun24
CISCO 3 P8,000/70hrs	3:30-8:30	Sat	Apr10-Jul17
CISCO 4 P8,000/70hrs	8:00-3:00	Sun	Apr10-Jun05

ELECTRONICS

Basic Electronics P3,900/36hrs	8:00-12:00 8:00-12:00 1:00-5:00 1:00-5:00 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	MTTh MTTh M-Th M-Th M-F Sat Sat	Feb23-Mar11 Mar16-Apr01 Feb23-Mar08 Mar15-Mar29 Feb23-Mar09 Mar15-Apr01 Feb28-Mar27
Microcomputer Hardware Fundamentals P4,380/36hrs	8:00-12:00 8:00-12:00 1:00-5:00 1:00-5:00 5:00-8:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	TWTh TWTh MWTh MWTh M-Th Fri Sat	Feb24-Mar18 Mar15-Apr01 Feb23-Mar11 Mar15-Apr01 Mar15-Apr01 Feb27-Mar26 Feb28-Mar27
Microcomputer Hardware Servicing P4,500/35hrs	8:30-12:00 1:00-5:00 1:00-5:00 5:00-9:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th Fri Sat	Feb23-Mar08 Feb23-Mar08 Mar15-Mar29 Feb23-Mar08 Feb27-Mar26 Feb28-Mar27
Advanced Microcomputer Hardware Servicing P4,500/35hrs	8:30-12:00 5:30-9:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	MTTh M-Th Fri Sat	Feb23-Mar15 Mar15-Apr01 Feb27-Mar26 Feb28-Mar27
Television & Monitor Servicing P3,900/36hrs	5:30-8:30 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F M-F Sat	Feb23-Mar09 Mar15-Mar30 Feb28-Mar27
Practical Cellular Phone Servicing P4,800/27hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Mar15-Mar25
Home Video Editing P3,300/16hrs	8:00-12:00	Sat	Mar06-Mar27

ELECTRICAL

Industrial Electrician P4,500/66hrs	8:30-12:00 1:30-5:00 5:30-9:00 8:00-5:30 8:00-5:30	M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat Sun	Mar08-Apr07 Mar08-Apr07 Mar08-Apr07 Mar27-May29 Mar28-May23
Building Wiring Installation and Maintenance P4,500/60hrs	8:30-12:00 5:30-9:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th Sat	Mar08-Apr06 Mar08-Apr06 Mar27-May29
Electrical Control Wiring Installation and Troubleshooting P4,500/48hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-Th Sat	Mar08-Apr01 Mar27-May15
Motor &Trans. Rewinding P4,500/60hrs	5:30-9:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th Sat	Mar08-Apr05 Mar13-May15
AutoCAD 2000i P4,800/72hrs	9:00-12:30 1:30-5:00 5:30-9:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	T-F T-F M-Th Sat Sun	Mar08-Apr13 Mar08-Apr13 Mar08-Apr13 Mar27-Jun05 Mar28-Jun06
Advanced Ind'l. Motor Control P4,500/60hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-Th Sat	Mar08-Apr07 Mar27-May29

APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES

Enhancing Communication Skills P2,000/21hrs	9:00-5:00	Sat	Feb28-Mar13
Creating Preventive Maintenance Systems P3,000/21hrs	9:00-5:00	Sat	Mar06-Mar20
Customer Service P3,000/21hrs	9:00-5:00	Sat	Mar06-Mar20
Creating Powerful Training Aids P3,000/21hrs	9:00-5:00	Sat	Feb28-Mar13

AUTOMOTIVE/REF & AIRCON

Basic Driving Course P5,000/19hrs	1:00-5:00 8:00-12:00	M-F Sat	Mar01-Mar17 Mar29-Jun05
Auto Engine Electrical P3,000/42hrs	9:00-12:00 2:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-F M-F Sat	Mar01-Mar18 Mar01-Mar18 Mar27-May08
Auto Body Electrical P3,600/48hrs	2:00-5:00 1:00-5:00	M-F Sat	Mar01-Mar22 Mar20-Jun05
Gas Engine Mechanic P4,200/60hrs	9:00-12:00 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F M-F Sat	Mar01-Mar26 Mar01-Mar26 Mar27-May29
Diesel Engine Mechanic P4,200/60hrs	2:00-5:00 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F M-F Sat	Mar01-Mar26 Mar01-Mar26 Mar27-May29
Basic Car Maintenance P2,800/30hrs	2:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-F Sat	Mar01-Mar12 Mar27-Apr17
Automatic Transmission Mechanic P4,200/60hrs	9:00-12:00	M-F	Mar01-Mar26
Electronic Fuel Injection Servicing P4,200/48hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F Sat	Mar01-Mar22 Mar27-May08
Undercha ssis Mechanic P3,900/60hrs	9:00-12:00	M-F	Mar01-Mar26
Refrigeration & Aircon Mechanic P4,500/60hrs	9:00-12:00 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F M-F Sat	Mar01-Mar26 Mar01-Mar26 Mar27-May29

INSTRUMENTATION

Pneumatic Ind'l. Controls P4,200/42hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Mar01-Mar19
Electro-Pneumatics P4,200/42hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-4:00	M-F Sat	Mar22-Apr16 Feb28-Apr03
Basic PLC P4,200/42hrs	5:30-8:30 5:30-8:30 8:00-4:00	M-F M-F Sat	Mar01-Mar19 Mar22-Apr16 Feb28-Apr03
Calibration for Process Instrumentation P4,200/36hrs	5:30-8:30 9:00-4:00	M-F Sat	Mar01-Mar19 Feb28-Apr03
Industrial Process Controls Instrumentation P4,200/36hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Mar22-Apr16
Process Automation Course P7,500/12hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Mar01-Apr16
Machine Automation Course P10,800/126hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Mar01-May07

MECHANICAL

Lathe Machine Operation P5,000/40hrs	5:00-9:00 8:00-5:00	MTThF Sat	Mar01-Mar16 Mar06-Apr03
Milling Machine Operation P5,000/40hrs	5:00-9:00 8:00-5:00	MTThF Sat	Mar01-Mar16 Mar06-Apr03
Basic CAD/CAM P3,500/40hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F Sat	Mar01-Mar17 Mar06-Apr03
CNC Milling Programming P3,500/40hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F Sat	Mar01-Mar17 Mar06-Apr03
Gas Welding Cutting & Brazing P3,500/40hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F Sat	Mar01-Mar17 Mar06-Apr03

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64-Level Halftone	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Copy Speed				2 PPM	4 PPM	4 PPM	2 PPM	10 PPM
Digital Speaker Phone			●			●	●	
Document Memory			20 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	120 pages (max)
Digital Answering System			●			●	●	
Sequential Broadcast			10 locations	20 locations	20 locations	20 locations	60 locations	60 locations
Printer Function							●	
Scanner Function							●	
PC Fax Function							●	

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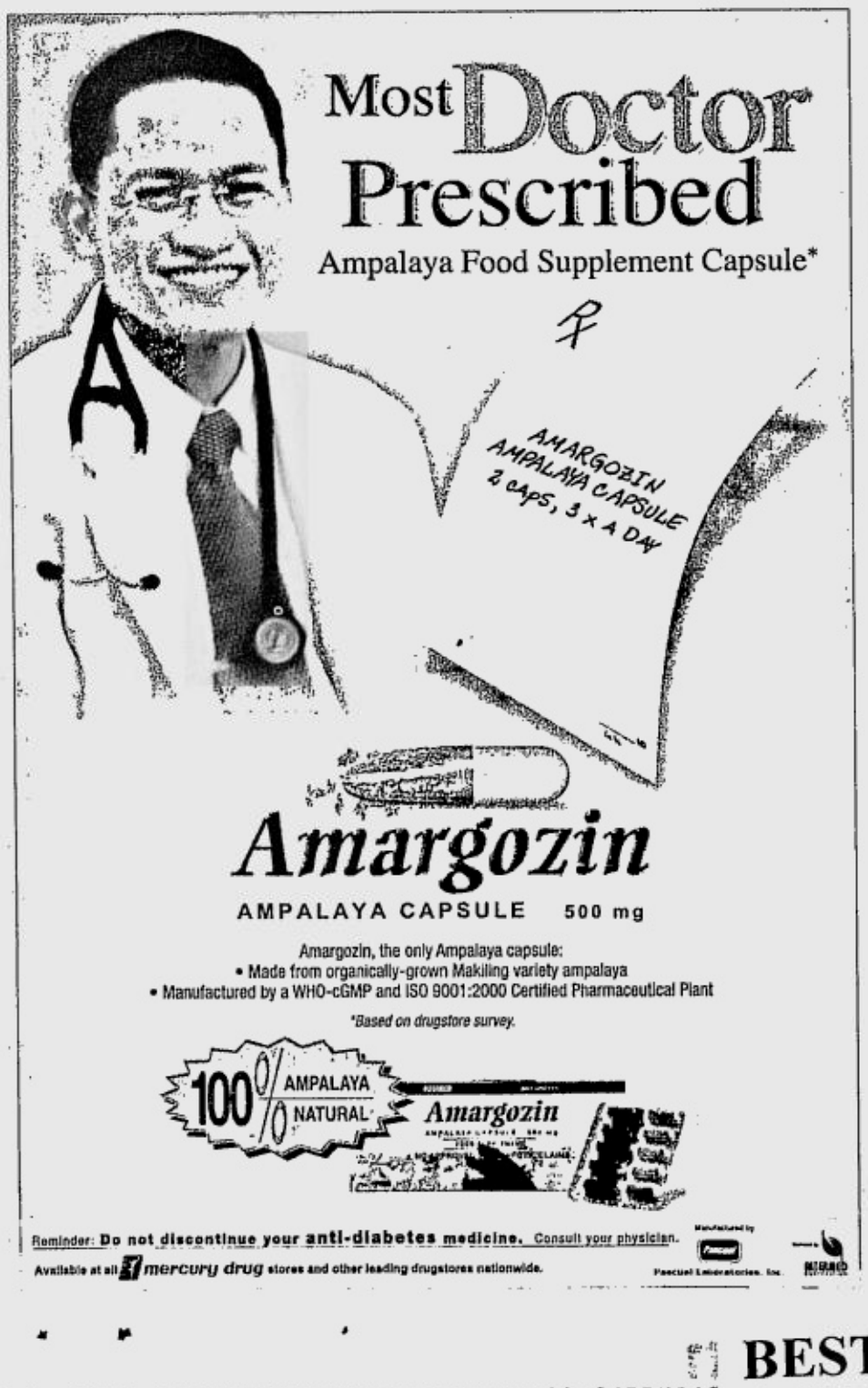

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MARIKINA, the city made famous by shoes, is ready for other investments. Mayor Marides Lourdes Fernando has declared 2004 as an "investment year" for Marikina. To attract investors, the city is waiving the collection of building permit fees for new businesses. "Now is the time. We are ready for investments," Fernando said. She and her husband, Bayani, who came to power in the early '90s, have been largely credited for turning Marikina into one of Metro Manila's cleanest and most livable cities. *Luige del Puerto*

PUP homecoming

THE COLLEGES of Economics, Finance, Political Science, Public Administration and Governance of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines will hold its alumni homecoming cum faculty-alumni fellowship on Feb. 18, 2004 at 6 p.m. at the Amado V. Hernandez Hall, P.U.P Main Library, Mabini Campus, Sta. Mesa. For more info, call Chair Alberto Guillo (Economics), Chair Severino Espiritu (Banking and Finance) and Chair Antonius Umali (Political Science, Public Administration and Governance) at 716-7832 loc. 223, 317, 224 or e-mail abetguillo@hotmail.com or rrd310@aol.com. Fax 714-0593.

KATIPUNAN TREE ROW

Raps poised against BF, MMDA

By Tina Santos and Margaux Ortiz

AN ENVIRONMENT group is now threatening to file contempt charges against Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando after work crews allegedly continued to cut trees along Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City in violation of a court order.

Ester Perez de Tagle, founder of Concerned Citizens Against Pollution (Cocap), said Fernando's men again felled trees along the avenue on Thursday and Friday night.

Court order

"They were like thieves who conduct their activities in the middle of the night when everyone is asleep," De Tagle told the INQUIRER.

"That's clearly in defiance of a court order. Does he think he is above the law?" De Tagle said.

She was referring to a temporary restraining order issued by Quezon City Regional Trial Court judge Marlene Gonzales Sison directing the MMDA from further "cutting, injuring, damaging, balling, uprooting and transferring" the remaining trees on Katipunan.

De Tagle said they were mulling the filing of contempt charges against Fernando.

Pictures

In a recent interview, Fernando said no trees were sacrificed in developing the avenue. He noted that only shrubs and bougainvilleas were recently removed when they recently built U-turn slots on the avenue.

But Annie Cruz, who headed the Greening of Katipunan Movement in 2001, said they had pictures that would prove that trees were felled by the MMDA.

She said five to seven trees were affected when the MMDA constructed five U-turn slots on the thoroughfare.

"We're wondering where the missing trees went," Cruz said in response to Fernando's statement that no trees were removed in the course of the project.

WPD empowers low rank officers

By Tarra Quismundo

EMPOWERED with greater responsibilities.

The Western Police District is lining up the more experienced among its ranks for a training that would let them better lead the rank and file.

At the same time, however, they would be made more liable for the lapses of their subordinates.

WPD Director Pedro Bulaong said some 500 Senior Police Officer 3 and Senior Police Officer 4 in the WPD would undergo a "supervisory training program" soon.

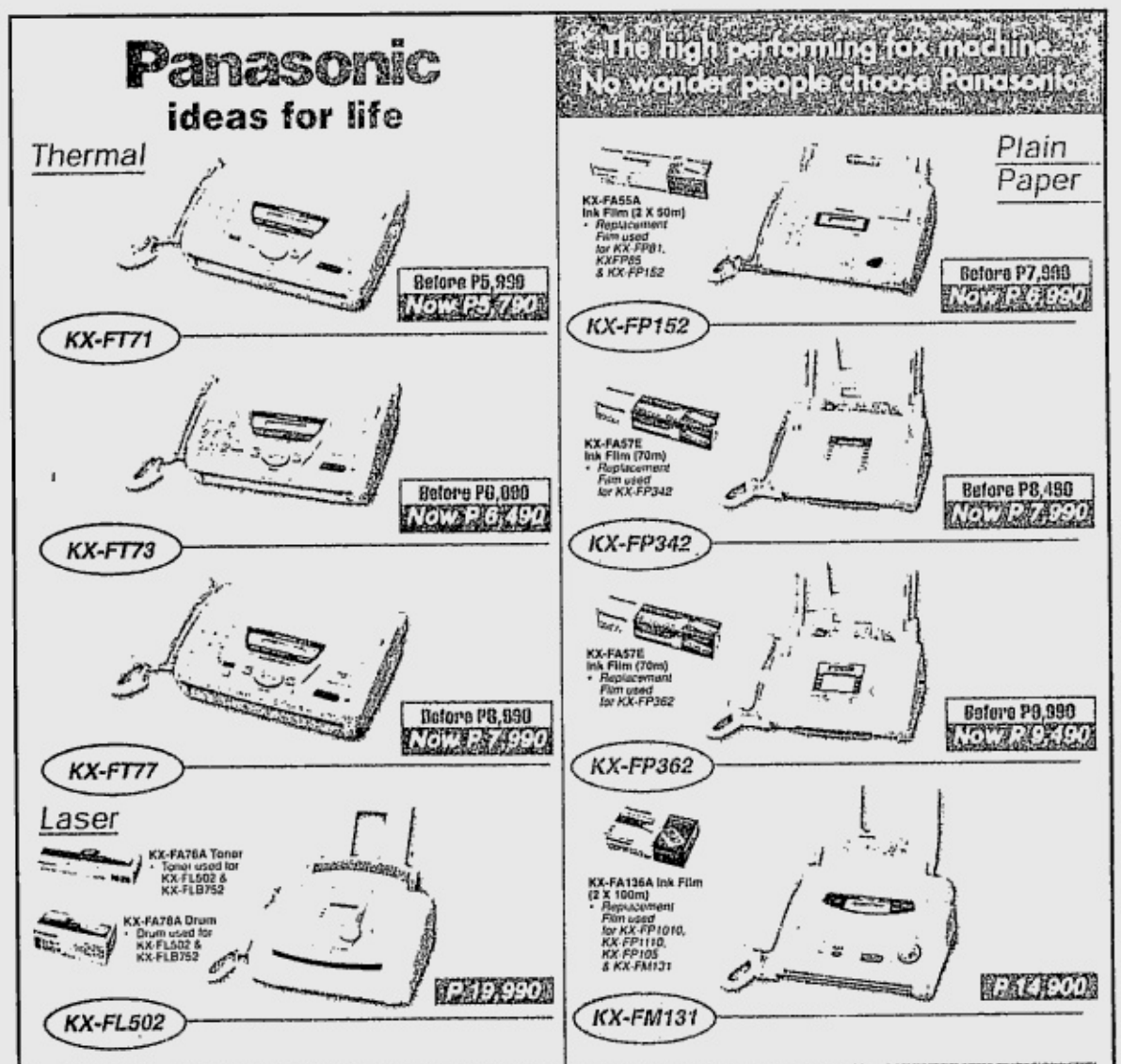
Active roles

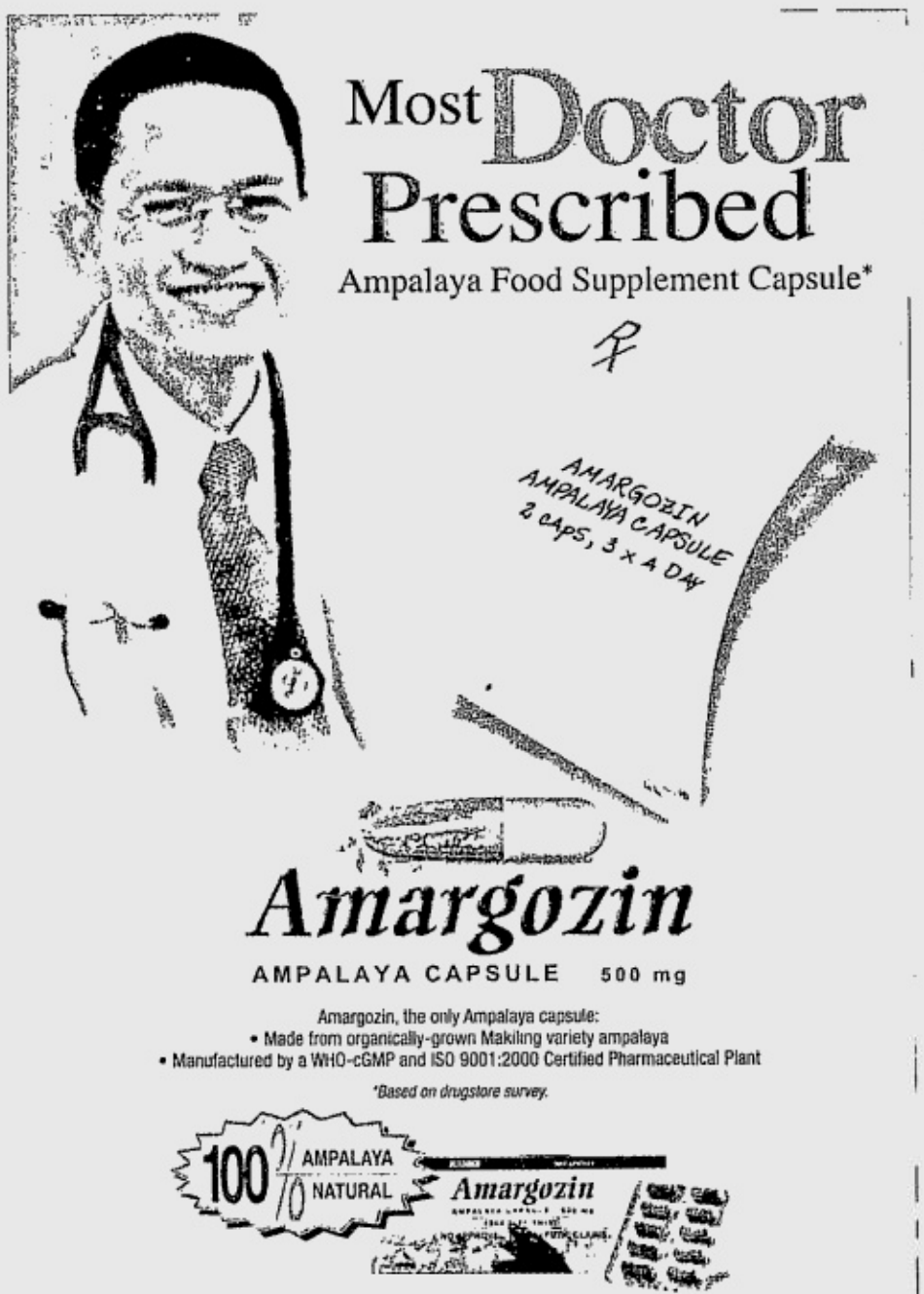
The brief refresher course, Bulaong said, would give the SPO3s and SPO4s more active roles by letting them oversee teams of lower-ranking policemen.

And, as if to once again prove that power comes with responsibility, these policemen would be accountable if any of the men under them would err during operations.

Bulaong said the program was also a way of preparing the officers for future promotions, which would depend on their performance as supervisors.

He added that police supervisors could recommend action against policemen with poor performance.





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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Comelec warns opportunists as national campaign starts

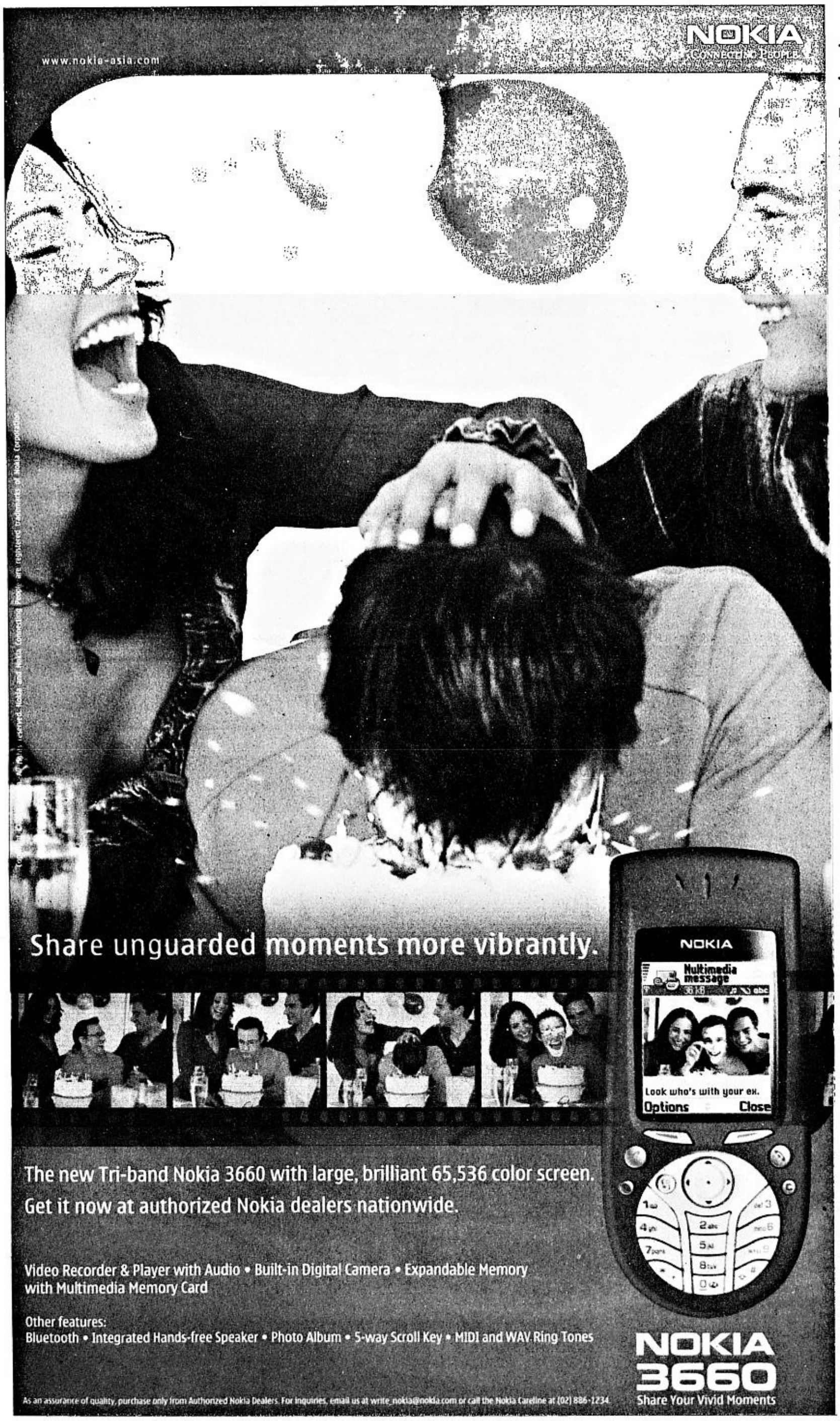
By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE CAMPAIGN period for national candidates starts tomorrow and election officers are reminding local candidates not to take advantage.

Shortly after midnight, streets will start to teem with campaign posters. But local politicians are advised to hold onto their streamers until March 25, when the campaign period for the local elections will begin.

In a letter given to local candidates all over the metropolis last week, the Commission on Elections said putting up political streamers and posters before their designated campaign period would constitute premature campaigning, which is a ground for disqualification.

Posters showing national candidates raising the hands of local bets will be considered as premature campaigning of the local candidate, Malabon election officer Villamor Igne said.



Trash talks falter

By Joyce Abaño

AN EMERGENCY session held Friday by the Pasay City Council failed to resolve a worsening garbage crisis in the city.

The majority, composed of eight councilors who questioned the P232.3-million budget being sought by Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad for garbage collection, voted to nullify the bidding ordered by the mayor in November last year.

At the same time, however, they authorized the mayor to expand from 60 days to 90 days the extension of last year's garbage collection contract, which lapsed on Dec. 31.

But Trinidad saw nothing new coming from the emergency session.

"What has changed?" he said. "It is still the same resolution ... extend the contract. How can you extend a contract that has already expired?"

Trinidad is seeking a renewal of the yearlong contract with the city's four garbage haulers.

MMDA help

In a bid to help Pasay residents, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) offered to help. Trinidad, however, declined the offer, saying he was already working on something to solve the problem.

Trinidad met with the barangay officials on Saturday to discuss measures on easing the impact of the deadlock between the executive and legislative branches of the city government.

With the Council decision to nullify last November's bidding for garbage collection in the city, the focus of the controversy is expected to go to the huge budget being sought by Trinidad.

According to a study by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jaica), Pasay only needed P76.6 million annually to effectively dispose of its garbage.

In justifying the P232.3-million he is seeking, Trinidad said the Jaica study did not include in its calculations the volume of trash generated by the city's markets.

NCRPO vows more village night raids

BRACE for more drug clearing drives in the metropolis in the next few days.

National Capital Region Police Office director Ricardo De Leon told the INQUIRER yesterday that they would continue their barangay clearing operations in a bid to thwart criminality.

This came after the Northern Police District rounded up 199 suspects in separate clearing drives in various areas in CAMANAVA the other night.

On Jan. 29, the Western Police District also rounded up about 1,500 men for police questioning.

NPD director Marcelino Franco described the anti-drug drives as an "effective way" of thwarting criminality in the metropolis.

Success

The set-up: the police would get arrest warrants and lists of wanted persons and then organize teams that would simultaneously swoop on barangays in the evening till dawn.

Persons who would be seen drinking or acting suspiciously in the streets would also be invited for questioning.

De Leon said previous operations proved successful that he was receiving text messages from residents and barangay leaders requesting similar drives in their villages.

Franco added that the drive's goal was to take the criminals away from the streets and stop them from striking again.

The operations are also in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive to bring the war on drugs down to the barangay level, he added. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

ROMY HOMILLADA

ARCILLA: Three tough matches in 3 days

Swedes stun Australians

Philippoussis goes from hero to zero as Davis Cup champs fall

ADELAIDE, Australia—Jonas Bjorkman knocked defending champion Australia out of the Davis Cup on Sunday, beating Mark Philippoussis, 7-5, 6-2, 6-2, and giving Sweden an unbeatable 3-1 lead.

PHILIPPOUSSIS

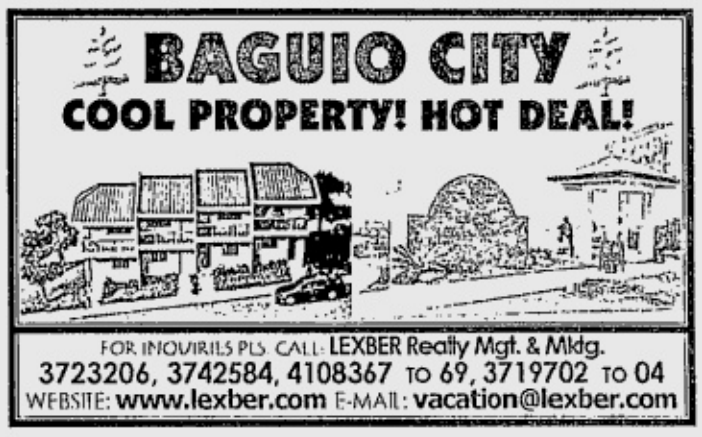
Thomas Enqvist overcame Wayne Arthurs, 7-6 (8), 3-6, 6-4, in the last reverse singles match to complete a 4-1 win for the Swedes, while Australia became the seventh defending champion to be eliminated in the first round since the World Group finals format was introduced in 1972.

Philippoussis, hero of Australia's win over Spain in the 2003 final two months ago, lost both his singles matches here at Memorial Drive.

"It's three days I want to put behind me. One day you're the hero, the next day everyone jumps on you," said Philippoussis.

Bjorkman had spent 4-1/2 hours on court Saturday with Joachim Johansson in a five-set doubles win over Todd Woodbridge and Wayne Arthurs to give the visitors a 2-1 buffer. He got a late call-up in the reverse singles for Robin Soderling.

Sweden advances to the quarterfinals against the United States, which led Austria, 3-0. Australia will go into a World Group promotion-relegation playoff in September. *AP*



Dog-tired Arcilla prevents shutout

By Musong Castillo, *Contributor*

A FAGGED-OUT Johnny Arcilla put off a much-needed rest yesterday to notch a win that prevented a more humiliating shutout for the Philippines in its Davis Cup Asia Oceania Group II tie with China at the Yñares Socio-Cultural Center in Pasig.

The 23-year-old Arcilla gave the Philippines what turned out to be its only victory in the tie, scoring a 6-2, 7-5 decision in the first of the two reverse singles rendered no-bearing after the Chinese won the doubles on Saturday for an unbeatable 3-0 lead.

Arcilla improved to 9-6 lifetime in Davis Cup play.

But the Chinese had the final say as Lu Hao remained perfect in his Davis Cup debut by holding off RP No. 2 Joseph Victorino, 7-5, 6-4, to complete a 4-1 score.

The Philippines also lost to the Chinese last year in Wuhan, 5-0.

Yu Xin Yuan and Xu Ran dealt the Arcilla-Adelo Abadia combine a sound 6-3, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 beating in just over two hours Saturday to clinch the tie.

Arcilla, the country's No. 1 with victories in his last eight local events, had earlier asked non-playing captain Johnny Jose for a rest after the doubles, having also gone close to three hours in losing the grueling opener to Lu Hao, 5-7, 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (3) on Friday.

The loss dropped the Philippines into a relegation match with Hong Kong in April. The winner of this tie will remain in Group II while the loser goes down to Group III.

Thais coming for National Open trackfest

SOUTHEAST Asian Games champion Thailand heads the banner international field invited to take part in the 2004 National Open Invitational Athletics Championships slated June 1-4 at the Rizal Memorial track oval.

The Thais, who won 13 gold medals in last year's Vietnam SEAG, are expected to be joined by top athletes from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam in the four-day competition.

Delegations from Myanmar, Brunei, Sri Lanka and Chinese-Taipei may also bolster the entry list of the tournament serving as a prelude to the country's hosting of the 2005 SEA Games.

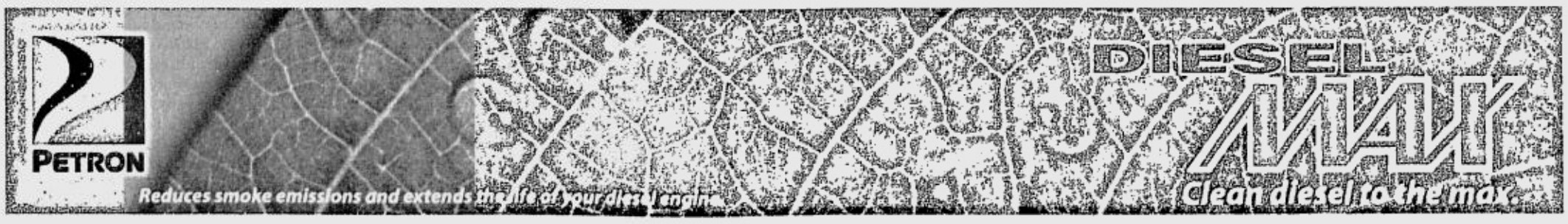
Organized by the Philippine Track and Field Association (Patafa), the event is open to junior and senior participants belonging to clubs, schools and even unattached entries.

Patafa president Go Teng Kok said he hopes to discover potential athletes in the meet.

"We will focus our search on the junior ranks where those graduating from high school can be enlisted into the training team," he said.

Thailand sent 110 athletes and coaches to the Hanoi SEAG while Vietnam fielded at least 120. In contrast the Filipinos, who wound with eight golds like the Vietnamese, only had 35.

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.



Watch out for Tour neophytes

COMPETITION in next month's 2004 Tour Pilipinas is expected to be keener as the grizzled veterans vie against a fresh batch of newcomers eager to make a name in the summer cycling marathon.

Of the 84 riders making up the Tour cast, 17 are first-timers.

The annual spectacle on wheels this year will cover 17 stages spread over 21 days beginning March 15 and ending on April 4.

Neophytes as they are, the young turks have been burning rubber since November last year when the Air21-bankrolled Tour Pilipinas staged its qualifying races in Batangas.

Organizers have seeded the top 36 riders in the 2003 revival race, which covered 15 stages in 18 days, and selected 48 out of the close to 300 who tried their luck in the qualifying.

The riders, led by defending champion Arnel Quirimit, will be dispersed into 12 teams.

The Tour will kick off in Sorsogon and circle most of Luzon, this time passing through Cagayan Valley and going as far as Pagudpod in Ilocos Norte.

Tour chair Bert Lina, who also heads the national association for cycling, said that with the entry of the newcomers, the Tour is fulfilling its grassroots development program.

The race will again be managed by the Philippine National Cycling Association headed by former champion and ex-Eagle of the Mountain Paquito Rivas.

Gearing up for the Tour besides Quirimit are last year's top 10 finishers Merculio Ramos, Warren Davadilla, Rhyan Tanguilig, Ronald Gorrantes, Enrique Domingo, Bernard Luzon, Lloyd Reynante, Alfie Catalan and Felix Celeste.

The old guards will still be around, including former champions Renato Dolosa, Carlo Guieb and Bernardo Llentada as well as Placido Valdez.

Laurente, foe in split draw

REIGNING Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) lightweight champion Dennis Laurente fought world-rated Japanese Kingo Nagashima to a split draw in a 10-round non-title bout in Tokyo's Korakuen Hall Saturday night.

Laurente, ranked No. 17 by the World Boxing Council, and Nagashima, rated No. 3, were credited with similar 97-96 scores, with the third judge coming up with a 97-97 verdict.

"They swapped few punches and kept clinching to avoid getting hit," said popular Japanese fight promoter Joe Koizumi, who watched the fight in Japan.

It was the fourth draw in 24 fights for Laurente, from Sibagat, Agusan del Sur, who is now based in Parañaque. He has 19 wins, 11 by KOs, against a loss.

Nagashima's win-draw-loss record now stands at 25-2-2 with 14 KOs. He moved up to the 135-lb class after a second-round knockout loss to Thai Sirimongkol Singmananssak in their fight for the vacant WBC superfeather title in 2002.

"Dennis showed a lot of improvement but he needs to work a lot more in the gym to make his skills at par with the world's best in his division," said Laurente's manager, Johnny Elorde, in a long-distance call to the INQUIRER.

Elorde, who is coming home today with Laurente and trainer Mario Lumacad, said Nagashima deserves a rematch. ***Rey Danseco, contributor***

NBI pursues probe of Asi citizenship

By Leila Salaverria

THE REAL citizenship of pro cager Pauliasi "Asi" Taulava is now a concern of the National Bureau of Investigation.

NBI Interpol chief Ricardo Diaz said an agent has been sent to a Samar town to verify Taulava's claim that he has roots there.

According to Diaz, the NBI agent will look for the people who certified that Taulava's mother, Pauline Mateaki, and her parents, Ana and Felipe Mateaki, are Filipinos who lived in Samar.

The citizenship of the 6-foot-9 Taulava, of the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals in the Philippine Basketball Association, and several other basketball players is being investigated by the NBI on orders of the Senate.

Based on the findings of the Senate, Taulava and Co. submitted fake papers to justify their claims to Filipino citizenships. The Senate recommended their immediate deportation to the Bureau of Immigration.

But the BI could not deport the players in the absence of an order from the Department of Justice revoking their citizenships.

Diaz said more NBI agents would be fielded soon to verify the claims of other basketball players whose citizenships had come under question.

Earlier, Diaz scolded Batang Red Bull player Devonn Harp for ignoring the subpoena sent to him, and Taulava for sending his lawyer instead of making a personal appearance at the NBI.

TAULAVA claims to have roots in a town in Samar. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

VERSUS PACQUIAO

Mexican champion seeks revenge

By Salven L. Lagumbay

THE MANNY Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez showdown appears to be a done deal but World Boxing Council bantamweight champ Oscar "Chololo" Larios has not given up the hope of fighting the Filipino ring hero within the year.

The Mexican Larios, recently voted co-Fighter of the Year by the WBC along with Roy Jones Jr., said he would go after Pacquiao once he's done with his upcoming Japan stint.

"After I take care of the Japanese, I'm going after Pacquiao next," Larios said.

Larios also stressed he wanted to avenge the shameful defeat suffered by compatriot Marco Antonio Barrera at the hands of the Filipino hero.

Larios (50-3-1, 35 KOs) is scheduled to defend his WBC 122-lb title for the sixth time against Shigeru Nakazato in a grudge rematch on March 6 in Tokyo, Japan.

Pacquiao is on the verge of signing up for a May 22 duel with reigning WBA/IBF featherweight king Juan Manuel Marquez.

A win over the counter-punching Mexican would catapult Pacquiao as a major pay-per-view attraction, and should line him up for a mega-million deal with HBO.

HBO had dumped Marco Antonio Barrera in favor of Pacquiao.

Pacquiao, Philippine Daily Inquirer's "Filipino of the Year," and business manager Rod Nazario are tentatively set to fly to the United States on Feb. 20 to begin negotiations with HBO executives and US promoter Murad Muhammad on the impending duel with Marquez.

Sobbing, laughing with the former PBL commissioner

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

FASH Detergent indeed looked ugly. The team appeared every drippy spit perfect for the dirty kitchen sink.

Yes, the team did not appear half an old shoe capable of contending for a major national basketball title. That was after Game 1 of the best-of-five titular playoffs.

Well, now that the crying and hysterics are over, who would've thought the Philippine Basketball League Platinum Cup titular series would go down as one of the most dramatic, most passionate rivalries in Pinoy Basketbol.

Not me, of course. And definitely not even the irrepressible Gary Lising.

Who would've ever suspected Fash Detergent could resurrect and strike back after it had been mangled in the opener of the championship series?

Not me, not all my poor, friendly neighbors.

Fash had indeed resembled garbage, an unworthy contender for the crown.

***

How Fash blossomed magically from garbage to gold is now one for the books, as they say.

How the fabulous tug-of-war pulled graying basketball devotees from lazy Saturday afternoon nooks to again run to the championship venue is an affirmation of the Pinoy flair for pure, valid theater.

Looking at the faces around ringside was like opening an album of the legendary Crispa-Toyota rivalry of the late Seventies.

Those happy, expectant faces of old blended splendidly with the fresh, radiant smiles of new ringside devotees.

Yes, that Saturday afternoon at the ballgame, when underdog Fash provided an unforgettable ending to a suspense theater, now forms part of a national album.

***

Funny how I ended up being part of that show.

And as unexpectedly as the Fash title win itself, when I had to receive my son Chino, the resigned PBL commissioner, sobbing, with an old, fatherly hug.

Of course, the small boy in him could have shouted and shrieked to say how happy he was that it was all over.

It was one of the most trying periods of his happy, active, committed life.

Just too bad that he took his task all too passionately that, in the end, he had to make a move he did not want to make in the first place.

Maybe he himself will never be able to fully understand the mystery of the events.

In fact, I'm still amazed at a text message received here after Chino had resigned midway in Game 3 of the title playoffs.

"It takes a child to teach the fat, rich and greedy what integrity is all about," read the text.

The text-sender did not elaborate.

***

Actually, there should be no need now to talk about that dramatic resignation.

In this rat game of mine, I had made it a point not to comment on the league once ran by my eldest of three good sons.

But, as most people had thought it was all a frantic, knee-jerk offshoot of that "Tangkay MVP" sticker parade by members of the Welcoat team, let me assure everybody it was not.

It was a lot deeper than that. Chino had to do the unexpected because he wanted to send a strong message and save the league from sinking.

Listen, please. After he texted me last week that he was stepping down, I reminded him not to do it in anger. Stay calm.

Of course, he was very angry, and he did not hide it.

***

A censure for the offenders would have been fine, I tried to tell him the next day after the papers had played up his resignation.

Chino had this explanation: "I had thought of just penalizing Welcoat. But I had done that before. In the past, they just paid the fine but showed no remorse for their wrongdoings. Resigning was a way of sending the message that they don't test my resolve. It might not be the best option but it should send the message across."

Well, this other thing was not brought out in the ensuing stories. But Chino said he was also taken to task by Welcoat for what it alleged was spotty officiating in Game 2, which was won by Fash in double overtime.

I had to assure him it was one of the best officiated games I had watched in years, including those in the PBA.

***

In the end, I had to rib Chino by reminding him he had taken a rare shot, scored, and even got applauded for it.

But it was not the kind of shot you take every day, I winked.

Maybe it was a shot you take only once in a lifetime. Or not at all.

He texted back laughing: "Yes, Dad, can't resign again, *di na pwede ulit, ha, ha.*"

I congratulated the guy. Told him I felt proud.

He replied: "I expect 2 come back 10 times stronger after all has been said n done."

Now they ask me if he's coming back as PBL commissioner.

Ask him, please. It's always been his ballgame.

As kids, they have been taught to fight their own battles, but in all humility please.

Sorry friends. That last line should've not been said at all.

However, it was written in reply to one perplexing texter who wondered if I would ever twist the arms of moneyed friends just to peddle my sons' paintings.

May we beg this text-sender to identify himself, please.

And to you all: Our heartiest, sincerest thanks.

SPORTSWATCH

Thrilling doubles results in Emelie netfest

EXCITING victories by lady executives Marife Bugal-Tita Francisco and Lea Samson-Leni Anola in doubles play overshadowed the march of national netters Tracy Santos and Czarina Mae Arevalo at the start yesterday of the 2004 Hotel Emelie All-Women's Tennis Open at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. The Bugal-Francisco tandem outlasted Minda Barlis and Joycelyn Garcia, 6-3, 2-6, 6-2, while the Samson-Anola pair edged Alice Contreras and Bernadeth Madamba, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3, to advance to the quarterfinal round of the women's executive doubles division. In the Open singles, Santos whitewashed Sherly Valler, 6-0, 6-0, and Arevalo demolished Aileen Rogan of Gen. Santos City, 6-0, 6-2, to advance to the next round of the tournament held in cooperation with Avon Beauty Products, Milo, adidas, Wilson balls and the Philippine Sports Commission and sanctioned by the Philippine Tennis Association. In other matches, third seed Bien Zoleta ousted Divine Escala, 6-2, 6-0; No. 4 Michelle Panis drubbed Anna Soriano, 6-0, 6-0, and No. 7 Ivy de Catsro stopped Holy Ann Gonzales, 6-0, 6-1.

Serbidad, Yambao top Beam-Zest-O 5K

RONALDO Serbidad ruled the men's race and Liza Yambao topped the distaff division in the Beam-Zest-O Patakbong Pinoy 5K yesterday that started and wound up at the Rajah Sulaiman Park in Manila. Serbidad submitted a time of 15 minutes, 20 seconds to beat Crisenciano Sabal (15:26) and Jojit de Asis (15:36) while Yambao shone with a fast clocking of 18:44 as she outkicked Liza Relox (20:20) and Shella Ninobla (22:20) in the race jointly supervised by the Media Runners and Sports Promotions and the direct Link Runners Club and held in coordination with the Manila Sports Council headed by Arnold "Ali" Atienza. Serbidad and Yambao took home P3,000 each plus trophies, with Sabal and Relox pocketing P2,000 and De Asis and Ninobla winning P1,000 each. Top placers in the age categories were Rodel Relox and Junessa Mapa (19-and-below), Michael Mendoza and Dada Bugnon (20-29), Joel Raneses and Johana Lim (30-39), Juanito del Rosario and Rosario Rodriguez (40-49), Danilo Burdegs and Norma Roxas (50-59) and Jose de la Cruz and Teofila Castillon (60 and above).

Suico makes it 9 straight in Fistorama

YOUNG prospect Benedict Suico of Stonewall Boxing Gym stopped Noel Bading in the fifth round Saturday night to boost his stock in the Samsung Fistorama slugfest at the Joe Cantada Boxing Arena in Taguig. The 17-year-old Suico, nephew of OPBF champion Randy Suico, softened up Bading's body with several power shots before finishing him off with a blistering punch to the face in 2:36 of the fifth. The win improved Suico's record to nine straight wins, most of them scored in the Cantada arena. "I'm so elated with this win. Benedict moved so well and was just too good tonight," said Joy Ouano, Suico's manager. Other Stonewall fighters performed strongly in the fights, with Mercito Gesta stopping Terry Tayao in the first round, Ping Tepura winning via TKO in the 5th round, and Gomer Miñoza drawing with Danny Llanasa after he was cut by a headbutt in the opening round. Samsung's Fistorama is aired weekly in the United States, Australia, Japan and the Middle East through ABS-CBN's Pinoy Central TV. ***Salven L. Lagumbay***

San Antonio tossers keep clean slate

SAN Antonio de Padua College chalked up two more victories to fortify its title-retention bid in the high school division of the 9th Milo BEST Women's Volleyball League (WVL) last week at the St. Benedict College courts. Coach Ramon Tiongson's wards outlasted St. James Academy, 25-23, 23-25, 15-10, after downing School of St. Anthony, 25-23, 26-24, to improve their record to 5-0 in Group A. "I have put up a competitive team for this tournament. We have the height, we have the quickness," said coach Tiongson. In other important prep matches, Antipolo Lady of Lourdes School downed last year's runner-up St. Theresa's College, 25-16, 15-19, Diliman Prep, 25-12, 25-21, and Poveda, 25-23, 25-14, while St. Scholastica's College crushed UP Integrated School, 25-9, 25-2. The Antipolo girls took solo lead in Group B at 5-1, while St. Scho belles raised their record to 4-0.

Mikee, Toni set to impress

SEASONED and amateur riders are vying in four jump categories in the Kamiseta Cup Showjumping Championships set Feb. 15 at the Manila Polo Club. Organizers said multiawarded equestriennes Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski and Toni Leviste will figure in an exhibition match. The riders will compete in the 1.2, 1.1, 1.0 and 0.8 meter jumps in the competition sponsored by RTW chain Kamiseta. For inquiries, call the MPC at (02) 817-7493.

NEW TIGERS: Players Jec Chia (left) and Leo Avenido (third from left) and members of the coaching staff of last year's winningest PBA squad, the Coca-Cola Tigers, welcome the team's three rookies during the recent Rookie Draft at the Glorietta in Makati City. Wearing their new team's workout jackets are Manuel Ramos, Rhagnee Sinco and Gary David.

GOLF FOR A CAUSE: Sta. Elena Golf Club general manager Bones Floro, National Golf Association of the Philippines president Rod Feliciano and Foundation for Values Training Inc. chair Mario Rustia (from left) shake hands on the agreement making Sta. Elena the venue of the Mendez Cup tournament set March 1 to raise funds for the completion of the Tagaytay Conference Center in Mendez, Cavite. At right is executive committee member Rep. Ding Quintos. Back row, organizing committee chair Joe Magsaysay, Sta. Elena golf director Jose Cedo jr., NGAP executive director Jake Ayson and PRO Abe Villanueva.

OUZO: Wire-to-wire victory JESS YUSON

Ouzo oozes with might

By Edwin Villanueva

OUZO got the pacing he wanted and went on to score a wire-to-wire win yesterday in the Philracom Open Stakes, the year's first major race, at the jampacked Santa Ana Park.

"*Napabayaan sa unahan eh yan ang gusto nyan* (They allowed him to dictate the pace and that's what he wants)," said ace jockey Pat Dilema of the 6-year-old mare whom he partnered for only the first time.

Sired by Australian stallion St. Covet out of New Zealand mare Aniseed, Ouzo finished the 1,800-m contest five lengths away from Time Gentleman who posed the only danger on the winner. Treeline finished third, then came Ouzo's stablemates, Real Slew and Neat Laurel.

Time Gentleman, ridden by Fernando Raquel Jr., closed in on Ouzo at the far turn but lost steam tracking the fleet-footed galloper who clicked rapid fire fractions of 13.5-23.5-26-23.5-28 for a 1:54.5 clocking over the seldom-used distance.

The victory, Ouzo's ninth in 16 outings, marked Dilema's return to the stable of noted sportsman Hermie Esguerra. Last Saturday, Dilema hinted of good things to come for the powerhouse Esguerra stable by guiding Bukambibig to an impressive win in the Class 4-Division 2A.

"*Magandang buwena mano* (It's a good start)," said Esguerra, last year's winningest horseowner, referring to Ouzo's triumph.

Ouzo, conditioned by Nestor Manalang, raced as Real Slew's coupled bet and the duo attracted P587,573 in sales as top favorites.

Esguerra received the winner's trophy from Philracom chair Jimmy Dilag, who was accompanied by commissioners Eduardo Domingo Jr. and Rogelio Tandiama. Also gracing the awarding ceremony was PRCI manager Andy Maramag.

Racing industry rallies behind Wind Blown

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

LAST Thursday, the country's horseracing cream of the crop attended the launching of the Pioneer Insurance-Wind Blown Bonus Incentive Program hosted by popular horse owner Hermie Esguerra at the plush Manila Polo Club. A first in Philippine racing history, the program offers more than P8 million in guaranteed prizes to the progenies of super horse Wind Blown.

"It is a genuine program that will not only boost the stock of the racing and breeding industry, but also forge unity and cooperation among its key players," said a Wind Blown fan from Bulacan.

For his part, Esguerra said: "We are proud that Wind Blown's accomplishments will now serve as a rallying symbol for the major players of the local racing industry to come together in support of a program that aims to pass on his brilliance to his future offspring."

"This bonus incentive program," added David Coyukiat, president and CEO of Pioneer Insurance, "is part of our corporate commitment to promote and pursue the objective of producing a future champion race horse out of Wind Blown, the most accomplished Philippine-bred race horse."

The market leader in general and life insurance, Pioneer has set aside P8.8 million in bonus prizes (for Wind Blown progenies only) to match the prize monies given to the champion horses of the following stakes races:

Year 2007—Philtobo Mitra Cup Juvenile Colts, P300,000; Philtobo Mitra Cup Fillies, P300,000; Marho Breeders Cup Juvenile Colts, P600,000; Marho Breeders Cup Fillies, P600,000, and Philracom Juvenile Open Championship Race, P1 million.

Year 2008 (Philracom Triple Crown Series)—1st leg (Chair Eduardo Cojuangco Cup), P1 million; 2nd leg (Secretary Jaime V. Ongpin Cup), P1 million; 3rd leg (Philracom Horseman's Cup), P1 million, and sweep bonus for winning all three legs of the Triple Crown series, P3 million.

The Pioneer-Wind Blown Bonus Incentive Program was launched in cooperation with the Philippine Racing Commission headed by chair Jaime Dilag, the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners headed by sports patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, and the Philippine Thoroughbred Owner and Breeders Organization chaired by businessman Antonio Lagdameo.

Recently retired to stud, millionaire horse Wind Blown (Hazm Wind in My Hair) will stand his first season this year at the well-manicured Herman Farm and Stud in Lipa City, Batangas, a province known as the hub of horse breeding in the country. Foaled in 1997, Wind Blown's first progenies are expected to arrive next year (2005) and will be of racing age as 2-year-olds in 2007 and as 3-year-olds in 2008.

***

RACING MEN WITH THE MOSTEST. As expected, two of the most active and influential horse owners in the Philippine horseracing industry emerged the biggest money winners in 2003.

Renowned sportsmen Hermie Esguerra and Putch Puyat topped the elite field with total earnings of P20,231,270.20 (in 363 races) and P12,373,721.13 (457 races), respectively.

They were followed by business magnate Antonio Floirendo (P11,185,523.67); Patrick Uy (P10,471,833.57); Franchino Farms (P9,674,340.13); Leandro Naval (P9,010,571.38); Ralph Javier (P8,671,990.28); Ed Gonzales (P8,540,589.03); Pierre Niles III (P7,564,075.73); Joseph Dyhengco (P7,251,817.68); C&H Enterprise (P6,589,586.26); Jun Almeda (P6,503,954.81); P/T Stables and Farms (P6,499,089.67), and Ronald Daduya (P6,420,078.30).

Also in the winners' circle were Jun Paman (P6,416,018.29); Jose Mari Franco (P6,346,561.87); PBA player Paolo Mendoza (P6,319,281.33); Dos Ranchos Jofero (P6,286,351.13); Wind Blown breeder Sandy Javier (P5,334,751.41); William Dagan (P5,380,286.04); KLN Express (P5,355,453.83); Rellie de Leon (P5,239,428.93); Arnel Espinocilla (P5,286,710.49); Rafael Morales (P5,212,718.91); Jeci Lapus (P5,197,478.28); Jose Santos (P4,853,901.72); Joaquin Mitra (P4,834,755.79); Art Tirana (P4,586,670.73); and Ed Moreno (P4,514,437.63).

My esteemed friend, TV executive Jake Maderazo, also made the list, earning P4,075,483.78 in 145 races, while sportsman-businessman Enrique Cojuangco won P3,473,532.19 in 79 races.

Els hangs on, captures Heineken Classic by 1

MELBOURNE—Ernie Els blew an eight-shot lead but hung on to win the Heineken Classic by a stroke after a gripping head-to-head with Adam Scott on Sunday.

Els, the world No. 3 who began the day with a seemingly insurmountable eight-shot cushion, carded a 2-over-par 74 to finish on 20-under 268 at Royal Melbourne Golf Club. He became the first player to win the $1.54-million event for three successive years.

Australia's Scott had edged to within a stroke of the lead when he made a 35-foot birdie putt at the par-four 17th, where Els parred.

In Aiea, Hawaii, Michelle Wie advanced to the final round of the men's 54-hole event, the Hawaii Pearl Open, shooting a 4-under 68 Saturday to finish two rounds at 2-under 142.

The 1.83-meter (6-foot) ninth-grader from Honolulu was nine strokes behind early leader and two-time champion Kiyoshi Murota (65).

In Pebble Beach, California, Vijay Singh recovered from a rugged start by unleashing five birdies in a six-hole stretch for a 4-under 68 that gave him a share of the lead with Arron Oberholser in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. *Reuters*

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205/65R15	2,361	195/60 R14	2,113
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Jazz down Suns, give Sloan 900th victory

PHOENIX—Jerry Sloan's 900th NBA coaching victory came the way so many of the others did—with his team grinding it out and making the big shot at the end.

Carlos Arroyo sank a 3-pointer with 35.2 seconds to play and the Utah Jazz beat the Phoenix Suns, 96-92, on Saturday night to snap a four-game losing streak.

Amare Stoudemire tied a Suns' record with 10 blocked shots, six in the first quarter. He also scored 20 points and had four steals, but Phoenix lost for the ninth time in 11 games.

Sloan, in his 16th season with the Jazz, is the eighth NBA coach to achieve 900 victories.

Sloan trails only Lenny Wilkens, Larry Brown and Don Nelson in victories among active coaches, and his .623 winning percentage is the best of all four.

Sloan said his team's 25th victory of the season was far more important than the No. 900 of his coaching career. *AP*

Complete results:

New York 76, Miami 64; Boston 110, Philadelphia 80; Houston 86, Atlanta 77; Washington 106, Cleveland 88; Milwaukee 107, New Orleans 97; Dallas 111, Detroit 108; Utah 96, Phoenix 92.

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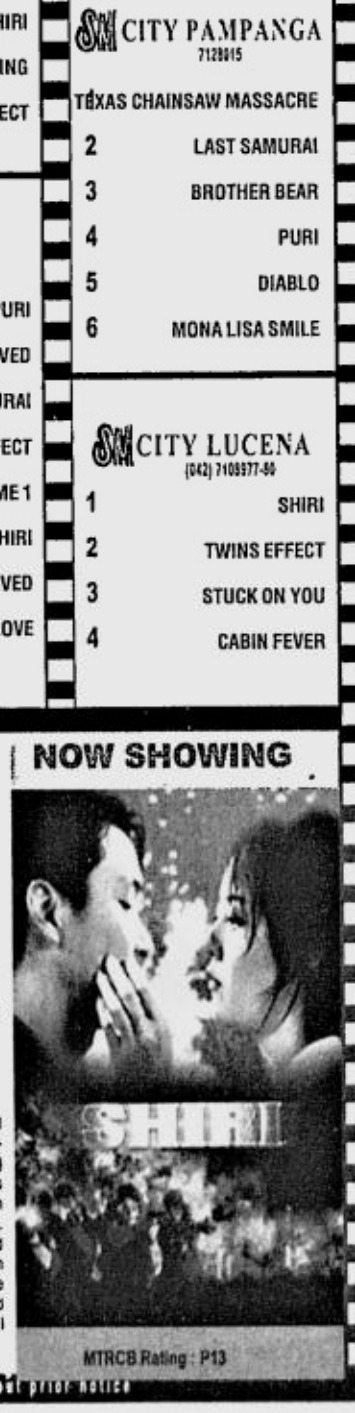

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7 SHIRI
8 LAST SAMURAI
9 LOLLIPOP
Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 RESERVE
2
3
4
5
Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 DIABLO
2 WISHER
3 LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
4 LOLLIPOP
5 LAST SAMURAI

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson INTERNET QUEEN
Lords BELYAS

Mandaluyong
MARIKINA tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 KILL BILL
2 DAYO
3 LOLLIPOP
4 RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 MONA LIZA SMILE
3 LOLLIPOP
4 SHIRI
5 IN THE CUT

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 UNDER WORLD
2 LOLLIPOP

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta center
MALL CINEPLEX 7
Tel No. 911-3101 Loc. 921-9242-5498
1 KILL BILL
2 LORD OF THE RINGS 3
3 MONA LISA SMILE
4 IN THE CUT
5 LAST SAMURAI
6 RUNAWAY JURY (SNEAK PREVIEW)
7 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 MONA LIZA SMILE
2 MEMENTO MORI
3 TWIN EFFECTS
4 THE GRUDGE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 THE GRUDGE
2 MEMENTO MORI
3 MONA LIZA SMILE
4 KILL BILL

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 GATHERING
2 INTERNET QUEEN
3 SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE
4 LAST SAMURAI

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 MONA LIZA SMILE
2 PURI
3 TWIN EFFECTS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 DIABLO
2 MONA LIZA SMILE
3 LAST SAMURAI
4 TWIN EFFECTS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 MONA LIZA SMILE
2 TWIN EFFECTS
3 LAST SAMURAI
4 DIABLO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SCARY MOVIE
2 THE GRUDGE
3 KILL BILL

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 BROTHER BEAR
2 STUCK ON YOU
3 TWIN EFFECTS
4 NAKED WEAPON

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320
1 TWIN EFFECTS
2 KILL BILL
3 SCARY MOVIE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 MEN
2 AMBISYOSA
3 LOLLIPOP
4 ALIPIN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 MONA LIZA SMILE
2 PURI
3 LAST SAMURAI
4 LOLLIPOP
5 DIABLO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 WISHER
2 HIYAS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 MONA LIZA SMILE
2 MASK
3 WISHER

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 ALIPIN
2 PURI
3 LOST ISLAND
4 LAST SAMURAI

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel 520.8914
1 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 PURI
2 BRTHER BEAR
3 MEMENTO MORI
4 LAST SAMURAI

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 LORD OF THE RING
2 KISKISAN

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

NOW SHOWING

A28

Robin goes Indie

ACTOR Robin Padilla, known for his troubled past and anti-hero celluloid image, stars in "Astig," an experimental digital film written and directed by independent filmmaker Jon Red.

The film will premiere at the opening of the Ika-17 Gawad CCP para sa Alternatibong Pelikula at Video on at 7 p.m. tomorrow at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Little Theater.

Admission is free.

Shot on mini-digital video, it tells the story from the point of view and through the eyes of Bien (Robin), an assassin who suffers from astigmatism.

To achieve this effect, Robin also worked as camera operator while portraying the role of the killer.

Also cast in this breakthrough film are Albert Martinez, Francis M, Jeffrey Quizon, Alessandra de Rossi, Ronnie Lazaro, Jaime Fabregas, Nonie Buencamino, Shamaine Centenera, Dido dela Paz, Errol Dionisio, Maverick and Ariel, Jackie Castillejo, China Cojuangco, Hector Macaso, Gary Rada, Sig Sanchez, Benjie Felipe and comedian Tado.

Produced by Pelipula, the film will also be screened at the Pelikula at Lipunan Film Fest on Feb. 13, 7 p.m., at the SM Megamall Cinema 6.

Tickets are P75 each.

SHOW TIME

Valentine alumni affair

THE ST. AUGUSTINE School in Tanza town, Cavite, will hold a grand alumni homecoming on Feb. 14 at the St. Augustine School Quadrangle.

The affair will celebrate the 35th founding anniversary of the St. Augustine School with the theme "Let the Augustinian Spirit Soar."

The event will be highlighted by a thanksgiving mass and motorcade in the morning, human bingo and raffles in the afternoon, and alumni night party with live bands and stand-up comedians, according to Angie Bobadilla, Alumni president.

This year's host is batch 1994 led by Almie Rose Dazo-Hernandez, wife of Rosario three-time Councilor Jose Rozel "Jhing-Jhing" E. Hernandez.

For details, call Almie Rose at 0917-826-0749, or visit the S.A.S. Principals Office.

Sexy starlet also sings

SHOW TIME

FEW people know that sexy actress Criselda Volks, who has starred in several controversial films and is a regular in RPN-9's "Single Girls," sings.

In fact, singing is her first real passion. It has brought her to night spots in the metropolis and on tour in Singapore with her own band.

Criselda now joins the exciting lineup of performers at Arkdia and performs there on all Tuesdays of February with the Overload Band. Arkdia is located at 542 Remedios St., Malate, Manila.

Call 400-9776/400-9774 for details or visit www.arkdia.com.

Valentine show

WATER Village Grill and Restaurant will feature recording artist Cindy Rosas in a Valentine show on Feb. 14.

She will perform alongside a Rico J. Puno impersonator, while regular comedians take turns onstage at the Galleon Music Lounge.

Water Village, on Aguinaldo Highway in Bacoor, Cavite, (beside SM Bacoor) offers huge discounts for groups of 10 and gives free bar chow to groups of five.

For party reservations, call (046) 502-2627 or (046) 417-4176.

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB ▸ R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted

Based on the bestselling novel by SUSANNA MOORE

"An erotic thriller capable of inducing nightmares and guaranteed to shock even hard boiled audiences."
-The Miami Herald

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	SKY OF LOVE
Ali 2	LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
Ali 3	MONA LISA SMILE
Ali 4	IN THE CUT
Ali 5	LAST SAMURAI
Ali 6	KILL BILL
Ali 7	THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
NOW OPEN 4 PM to 10 PM daily

ARANETA COLISEUM

FEB 13	OGIE & REGINE CONCERT
FEB 14	JOHN FORD COLEY CONCERT
FEB 15	OGIE & REGINE CONCERT
FEB 16	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
FEB 18	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
FEB 22	PBA FIESTA CUP OPENING
FEB 25	PBA GAMES

FOR TICKETS, CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

SM CINEMA
special sneak preview

feb9-10 2004

MTRCB RATING / R13

:: tickets available at ::
SM Megamall | North Edsa
Sta. Mesa | Manila
Southmall | Fairview

for screening schedules : 833 9999

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY KIDS / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BAKAT / DOUBLE SEDUCTION
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	SEX SCANDAL
B	LORD OF THE RINGS
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KILL BILL
CINEMA-2	PURI
CINEMA-3	MALIKMATA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LAST SAMURAI
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CAPTAIN BARBELL
CINEMA-6	MALIKMATA
CINEMA-7	MEMENTO MORI
CINEMA-8	TWINS EFFECT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LAST SAMURAI
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BROTHER BEAR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STUCK ON YOU
CINEMA-12	LOTR 3: RETURN OF THE KING
CINEMA-14	A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
CINEMA-15	DIABLO

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	LORD OF THE RINGS 3
CINEMA-1	KILL BILL
CINEMA-2	BANGKOK HAUNTED
CINEMA-4	CABIN FEVER

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
IN THE CUT
12:25, 3:10, 5:55, 8:40
R18

CINEMA 2
MONALISA SMILE
11:05, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
P13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM

FEB 11	"Game of Love" (Paolo Santos & Beun Escalante)	9:00PM
FEB 12 & 13	"VOTE 1 TAKE ALL" (Willie Nep 4 President)	9:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

For inquiries, call:
687-6963 • 687-6972
RESERVED SEATING
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

RUNAWAY JURY
11:30, 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50

MONA LISA SMILE
11:40, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 10:50
PG-13

BROTHER BEAR
11:45, 1:45, 3:45
5:45, 7:45, 9:45
GP

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:45
PG-18

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE R18 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30	RUNAWAY JURY R13 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00	THE LAST SAMURAI PG13 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50
IN THE CUT R18 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20	BROTHER BEAR GP 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	MONA LISA SMILE PG13 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

More movies on pages on 31 and 32

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
CALL-A-MOVIE FOR ALL BRANCHES 635-5555

TOP MOVIE THEATER
Annual National Consumer's Quality Award 2003
Family Consumers Choice Award 2003

NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16 / 687-0593

CINEMA 1 THX
MONA LISA SMILE 12:50, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20

2 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45	3 THE LAST SAMURAI 10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 DTS	4 IN THE CUT 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00
5 MONA LISA SMILE 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50	6 LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING 10:20, 2:05, 5:55, 9:45 DTS	7 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
8 STUCK ON YOU 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50	9 BROTHER BEAR 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40 SDDS	10 RUNAWAY JURY SNEAK PREVIEW

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P100 THX cinema / P75 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12

1 MONA LISA SMILE 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40		
2 THE LAST SAMURAI 10:10, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00 DTS	3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	4 RUNAWAY JURY SNEAK PREVIEW
5 STUCK ON YOU 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	6 IN THE CUT 11:15, 1:25, 3:40, 5:55, 8:05, 10:00 SDDS	7 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40

Big R Supercenter METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 THE LAST SAMURAI 11:30, 2:30, 5:30, 9:00	2 IN THE CUT 10:05, 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:05	
3 MONA LISA SMILE 10:05, 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:05	4 STUCK ON YOU 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00	5 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
6 RUNAWAY JURY SNEAK PREVIEW	7 BROTHER BEAR 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00 DTS	8 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00

Big R Supercenter NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

1 THE LAST SAMURAI 10:40, 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:30	2 MONA LISA SMILE 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30	
3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 10:30, 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:00	4 STUCK ON YOU 10:30, 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:00	5 BROTHER BEAR 11:20, 1:05, 2:50, 4:35, 6:20, 8:10
6 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30	7 IN THE CUT 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30 DTS	8 RUNAWAY JURY SNEAK PREVIEW

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575

1	MAPUSOK
2	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3	THE LAST SAMURAI
4	MONA LISA SMILE

big Supercenter CAINTA 240-4661

1	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2	MONA LISA SMILE
3	BROTHER BEAR
4	THE LAST SAMURAI

Big R Supercenter STA. ROSA Laguna (049)837-0907

1	MONA LISA SMILE
2	THE TWINS EFFECT
3	PURI
4	DIABLO
5	THE LAST SAMURAI

Big R Supercenter LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870

1	THE LAST SAMURAI
2	BROTHER BEAR
3	A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
4	BROTHER BEAR
5	PURI

Big R Supercenter DASMARIÑAS 852-2125

1	PURI
2	THE LAST SAMURAI
3	A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
4	STUCK ON YOU
5	BROTHER BEAR

Big R Supercenter STARMILLS 875-1927 / 961-5270

1	MONA LISA SMILE
2	PURI
3	HAUNTED OFFICE
4	DIABLO
5	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
6	THE LAST SAMURAI

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858

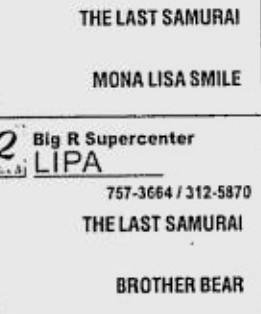
1	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2	THE LAST SAMURAI
3	STUCK ON YOU
4 DTS	MONA LISA SMILE
5	DIABLO
6	A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

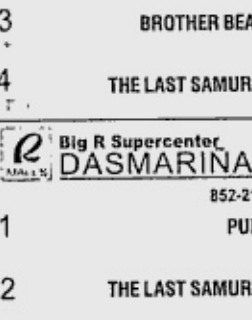
BACOLOD 441-0458/59

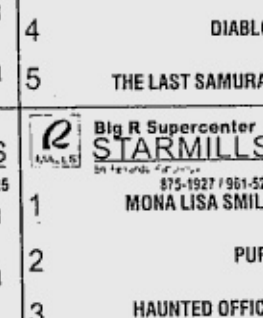
1	MYSTIC RIVER
2	THE LAST SAMURAI
3	BRIDAL SHOWER
4	LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RE-
5	TURN OF THE KING
6	KILL BILL

ILOILO 336-8070/78

1	LOTR: RETURN OF THE KING
2	SKY OF LOVE
3	THE LAST SAMURAI
4	KILL BILL
5	PURI
6	THE TWINS EFFECT







NOW SHOWING at Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas

ADVANCE SCREENING

* HAUNTED MANSION*
Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA Cinema 2

* CHASING LIBERTY*
Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA Cinema 6

February 9, 2004 (Monday) 7:30 PM
This screening is STRICTLY INVITATIONAL

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Most of you lead exciting lives because you have a strong energy that attracts people and events to you. Your enthusiasm is contagious. You believe in being positive. Through hard work you can accomplish a lot. Emotionally, you are quite volatile at times. The year ahead might be one of the best years of your life. Expect a miracle!
Birthdate of: Alice Walker, writer; Mia Farrow, actress; Travis Tritt, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Either you're a bit touchy today, or perhaps it's because someone deserves it—either way, you might have short words with a friend about money . Try to lighten up.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You won't tolerate being spoken to in a rude manner by anyone today, even if it's your boss You have feelings of strong ego now that make you proud.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You need to be patient with others today. Childish reactions from old programming could bubble to the surface. Resist these impulses, or you will regret it later.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Arguments about shared possessions, friends and "who owes who what" are just not worth it. Don't even go there. Think back to when everything was on good terms.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Discussions with bosses and partners are touchy. You might be irritable and short-tempered with someone today. Don't blow your cool; you'll regret it later.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Conversations are a bit testy with co-workers today. Either you are in a touchy mood or you're attracting others who are feeling this way. Remember: It takes two to make a fight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Lovers' quarrels are likely today. These differences could center on money and shared possessions. It's good to get things like this straightened out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Be careful about accident-prone behavior, especially at home. Some kind of repressed emotion (anger?) could build up and come out as a thoughtless action.

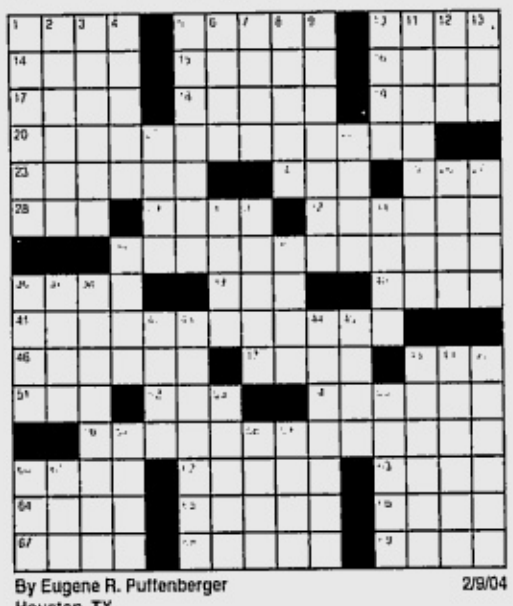
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Like Scorpio, this is a mildly accident-prone day for you. However, where you need to practice caution is in driving, jogging, walking, etc.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Financial stress related to show business, the arts, the hospitality industry, professional sports and vacations could be a problem today. Be aware of this right from the beginning.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Mercury is in your sign, making a 90-degree square to aggressive Mars today. This puts everybody on edge. You need to use much more patience than usual when dealing with others today.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Don't try to win an argument with someone today. It's not worth it. Let it alone. Be patient and diplomatic. This leaves somebody else standing there with egg on his or her face—not you.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX
2/9/04

ACROSS
1 Coarse file
5 Bottom line
10 Pork product
14 Lowest parts of small intestines
15 Diminish
16 Lion's den
17 Tapered tuck
18 "Gianni Schicchi" soprano role
19 Weaponry
20 Mel
23 Encapsulate
24 __ Na Na
25 Eminem's twins?
28 Former draft letters
29 Choir voice
32 __ de corps
34 Mel
36 Therefore
39 __ Dawn Chong
40 Consider
41 Mel
46 Blood component
47 Meg or Jeri
48 Org. of Couples and Toms
51 Poisonous evergreen
52 Possessive pronoun
54 Removes by scrubbing
56 Mel
60 Option for Hamlet
62 Nimble
63 __ of Man
64 "__ Lang Syne"
65 Blush
66 Wallop
67 Birch or alder
68 Politico Kefauver
69 Middle of March

DOWN
1 Long, narrow elevations
2 Delon and Prost
3 Glacial pinnacles
4 City on the Ganges
5 Citrus fruit
6 German chief
7 "A __ of Two Cities"
8 Map collection
9 Tanned hide
10 Louver
11 Ornamental garden with patterned paths
12 Intent
13 "__ Miniver"
21 Former Russian leader
22 Kiln
26 Imitate silently
27 Flower support
30 Wrongful act
31 Where lovers walk?
33 Pea containers
34 Teeth on a wheel
35 Squirmy
36 Spot
37 Anger
38 Like a rawhide chew-toy
42 Give off
43 Daily grind
44 Whip wielders
45 Andes people
48 Contracted, as lips
49 Decorative bars
50 Balance-sheet pluses
53 Some lilies
55 Pygmy antelope
57 Hand over
58 Delta base?
59 Gin flavoring
60 Create lace
61 "__ Miss Brooks"

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

C	O	O	T			A	G	G	R	A	V	A	T	E	D
A	R	T	E			R	I	T	A	M	O	R	E	N	O
T	A	T	S			A	T	O	M	I	C	M	A	S	S
S	T	O	L	E				S	I	E		P	I	S	
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C	R	E	W				U	N	I	O	N	J	A	C	K
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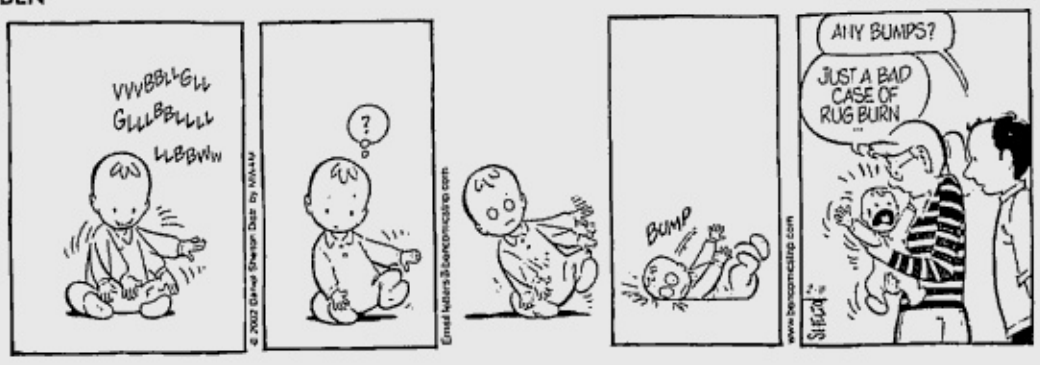
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



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Willy Nepomuceno for president

IN THE midst of the calm before the storm that is 2004 Presidential elections, impersonator Willy Nepomuceno will tickle your funny bones with the satirically hilarious show "Willy Nep for President: Vote One, Take All."

The show will run on Feb. 12 and 13 at the Music Museum.

A Valentine show of sorts, "Willy Nep for President" differs from other shows this season. There are no sappy love songs, no depressing moments. It's just a night of pure fun!

SHOW TIME

Willy Nep will be at his best, impersonating famous public figures—from Ferdinand Marcos to Fidel Ramos to Joseph Estrada to Fernando Poe Jr., and many other prominent characters in Philippine politics.

Joining Willy on stage are Ate Glow and Kaye Dacer of "Usapang De Kampanilya" and "Aksyon Ngayon" fame.

No other show will make the audience laugh and leave the theater feeling jovial than "Willy Nep for President."

This show is presented by PCSO, San Miguel Beer and Pagcor.

For ticket inquiries and reservations, call Music Museum at 7210635, or Ticketworld at National Bookstore.

JACKSON and Justin Timberlake, who tore off her top, exposing one of her breasts AP

Janet Jackson . . .

From page A32

He already did it, it's enough."

JC Chasez, Timberlake's 'N Sync bandmate, said the uproar over the Super Bowl exhibition will have repercussions long after the Grammys.

"Now it turns into a censorship issue," said Chasez, who refused to sing the national anthem at Sunday's Pro Bowl after the National Football League yanked him from the half-time show because of his lyrics. "You're terrified that if I do this song, are they going to play it on the radio? I think music and entertainment are in a great place right now. One bad apple is spoiling the bunch."

Self-promotion

Meanwhile, other performers continue to steadfastly support Jackson.

"I'm a big fan of Janet's," rapper-producer Missy Elliott said at a news conference Thursday in Los Angeles, where she was promoting a joint tour with Knowles and Alicia Keys. "I'm not here to judge her performance or what she's done. I think she's an incredible talent. I stand behind her always."

But Foo Fighters lead singer Dave Grohl said Jackson's breast-baring stunt was nothing more than self-promotion and "blatant exhibitionism."

The former Nirvana drummer believes the music industry has been harmed by the recent skin-revealing exploits of Jackson, Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera.

"Get them on the Playboy Channel," Grohl said Thursday at a pre-Grammy rehearsal party. "Keep them out of my MTV. I want to see bands and music." *AP*

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9:30 PM El Perro Del Hortelano
February 11 (Wednesday)
4:30 PM El Perro Del Hortelano
7:00 PM Sin Verguenza
9:30 PM La Buena Estrella
February 12 (Thursday)
4:30 PM La Buena Estrella
7:00 PM Juana La Loca
9:30 PM You're The One
February 13 (Friday)
4:30 PM Juana La Loca
7:00 PM La Buena Estrella
9:30 PM Sin Verguenza
February 14 (Saturday)
2:00 PM You're The One
4:30 PM Sin Verguenza
7:00 PM El Perro Del Hortelano
9:30 PM Juana La Loca
February 15 (Sunday)
2:00 PM El Perro Del Hortelano
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Janet Jackson snubs Grammy Awards after Super Bowl furor

NEW YORK—Even without appearing at the Grammys last Sunday night, Janet Jackson's presence will be inescapable.

The singer was supposed to have presented a special award for Luther Vandross, but pulled out amid the furor following her performance at the half-time show during the American football Super Bowl game.

Also avoiding the show will be Jackson's good friend, rapper and music producer Jermaine Dupri, who announced Friday he was resigning as president of the Recording Academy's Atlanta chapter.

"I didn't want to be a part of something that's not treating people in the right light," Dupri said. "I feel like what's going on with Janet is unfair."

Jackson's half-time partner, Justin Timberlake—who tore off the piece of clothing that exposed her right breast—will be there, however. He's up for five Grammys, including album of the year, and is scheduled to perform.

Grannies

But many expect that Jackson's absence will be felt more than her presence would have been, and that her stunt will overshadow the awards themselves. (Fellow R&B acts Beyoncé Knowles and Pharrell Williams, and rap stars Jay-Z and OutKast, lead the nominations with six each.)

"All night it will remind Grammy viewers, who are an anti-establishment lot, that this is not really their party," said Tom O'Neil, author of "The Grammys" who runs the awards handicapping Web site Goldderby.com.

"When the Grammys are at their hippest and best, they reward artists for daring to be social rebels. Now it's outrageous for the Grammys to punish Janet Jackson for performing that same role on someone else's stage. This just proves that the Grammys are really still the Grannies."

5-minute delay

Spokespersons for the awards ceremony and for the Recording Academy didn't return phone calls seeking comment Friday.

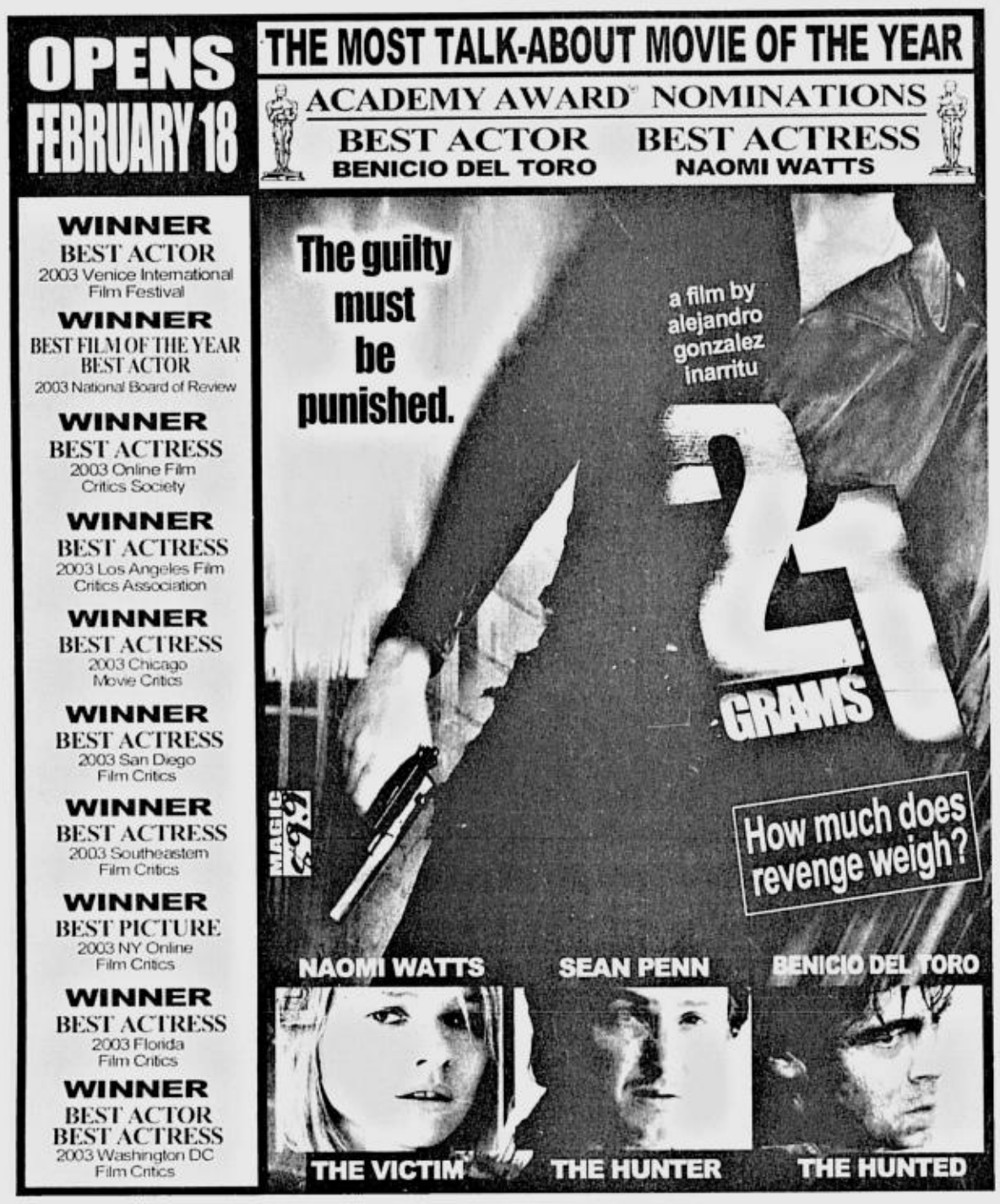
Blender magazine Editor Craig Marks pointed out that the Grammy ceremony is a conservative affair under normal circumstances. Now, CBS is instituting a five-minute delay to allow enough time to edit out any potentially offensive moments during the show at Staples Center in Los Angeles.

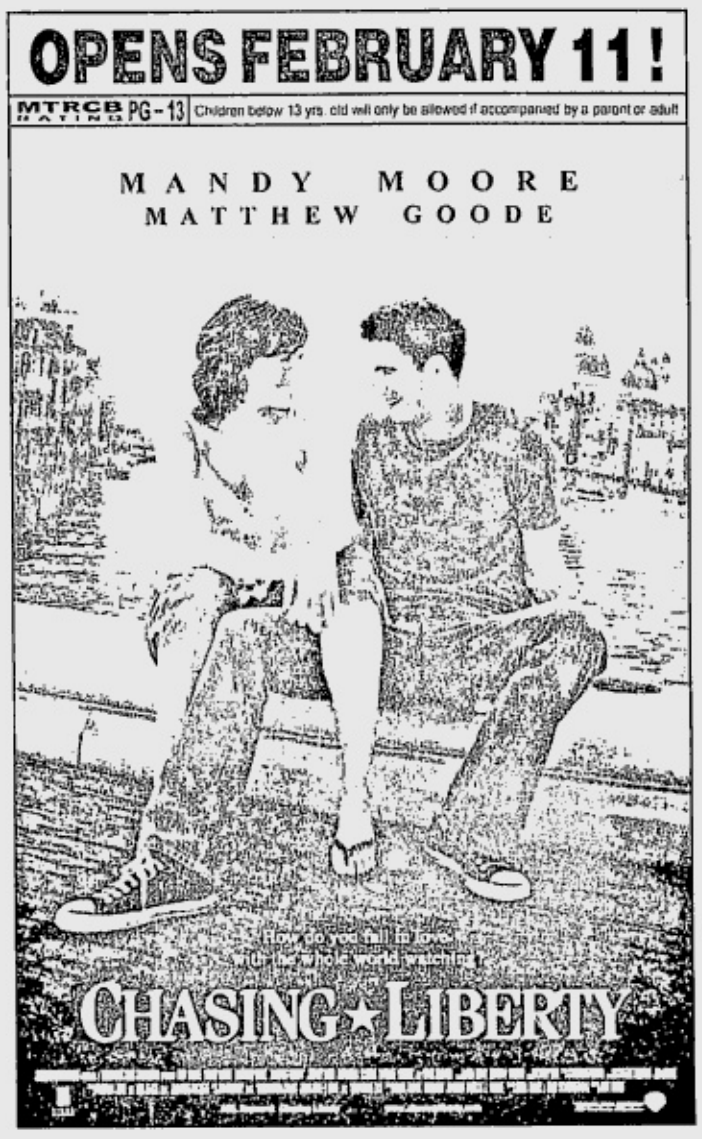
"I would imagine that this would be the most staid, surprise-free, least-lewd Grammys of all time," Marks said by phone Friday from Los Angeles. "The Grammy producers, the network, the labels, the managers and the artists, too, probably realize that some kind of extra crotch grab or cuss word would not be beneficial to their careers."

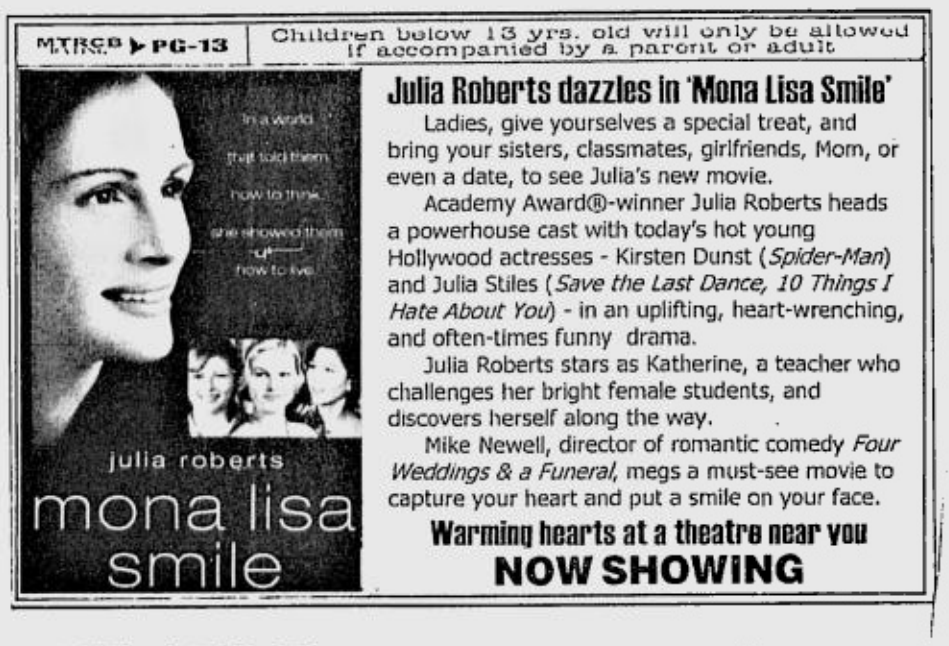
And what can we expect from Timberlake?

"I think he would be smart to ignore it," Marks said. "I don't think he would be smart to apologize.

JANET/A31







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BSP poises tighter forex policies

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is plugging the loopholes in its regulation of foreign exchange trading and is looking at banks' dollar-deposit units as a potential outlet of currency speculation.

The BSP has intensified its monitoring of dollar transactions of banks and other financial groups, particularly those operating in Chinatown.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said that some banks were already asked to explain a number of foreign exchange transactions, but he declined to identify the lenders.

He said the central bank would not hesitate to eventually name the banks found violating any BSP regulation on foreign exchange transactions as it did in 2001.

"The FCDU (foreign currency deposit units) is one area that we are looking at," said BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes.

The central bank has been closely watching currency transactions to guard against speculation that may have contributed to the peso's volatility. The peso remained weak at 55.96 to $1 as of last Friday.

Reyes said banks' dollar deposit units were being monitored to see if the facilities were being used to temporarily hold dollars acquired through questionable means.

Deposits in banks' FCDUs increased to $13.16 billion as of Jan. 23 from $12.94 billion the previous week. An increasing level of dollar deposit signals a stable capital flow but volatile movements in FCDU accounts could also be suspicious.

"There are many things we intend to do in terms of supervision from now until the elections. We are looking at the gaps in the present rules to address any loopholes. We are reviewing the policies and we would submit any recommendations to the Monetary Board," Reyes told reporters.

But the law provides FCDUs the right to absolute secrecy. Once funds are deposited in FCDUs, the central bank could not look into them.

Reyes said that central bank field examiners have also widened their scope to key provincial cities and not just Metro Manila. The BSP official said the monitoring of Chinatown activities was already ongoing.

Traders said that the black market was already trading at P56.08:$1 last Friday when the spot market rate was at P55.90 to a dollar. A treasury official said that one indication of capital flight was when the black market is trading at a big premium over the spot market.

"We plan to send more forex examiners especially in key areas like Chinatown and even in provincial cities like Cebu where

BSP/ B6

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 55.96 = $1

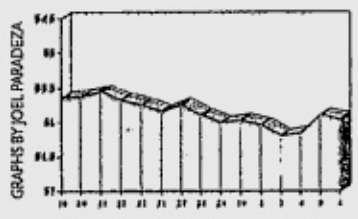
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 6, 2004

¥ 106.04 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 6, 2004

GOLD: $397.40-397.90

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 6, 2004

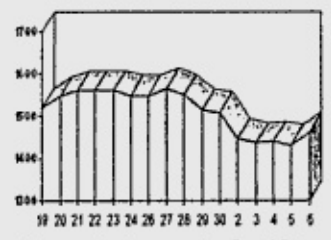


CURRENCIES

February 6, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.797130	1.000000	56.004000
Japan	Yen	0.007532	0.009449	0.529200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.461857	1.833900	102.705700
Hongkong	Dollar	0.102546	0.128644	7.204600
Switzerland	Franc	0.637398	0.799616	44.781700
Canada	Dollar	0.596297	0.748055	41.894100
Singapore	Dollar	0.471118	0.591017	33.099300
Australia	Dollar	0.610033	0.765287	42.859100
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.114460	2.652590	148.555700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.212563	0.266660	14.934000
Brunei	Dollar	0.469729	0.589275	33.001800
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000094	0.000118	0.006600
Thailand	Baht	0.020450	0.025654	1.436700
UAE	Dirham	0.217030	0.272264	15.247900
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.254500	70.257000
Argentina	Peso	0.268847	0.337268	18.888400
Brazil	Real	0.271780	0.340948	19.094500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134208	0.168364	9.429100
India	Rupee	0.017644	0.022134	1.239600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.209794	0.263186	14.739500
Mexico	New Peso	0.071415	0.089590	5.017400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.548648	0.688279	38.546400
Korea	Won	0.000684	0.000858	0.048100
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.024046	0.030166	1.689400

STOCK MARKET

Bargain-hunting seen to lift stocks



LOCAL stocks, battered by political uncertainties and regional weakness last week, are seen to firm up this week on bargain-hunting activities.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 3.1 percent or 46.77 points last week to close at 1,461.53. Gains during the start of the year were eroded but the index managed to recover some losses last Friday.

(See stock market report on Page B2)

"I see a continuance of the mild rise as far as the Phisix is concerned," said Ramon Garcia, president of brokerage RTG & Co.

"There are no more negative news and the business community appears ready to accept whatever the result of the presidential elections will be as long as they are based on honest and clean elections," Garcia said.

He said the Phisix was on its way to retest the 1,500 resistance, although it might take time to get past through this level because of the steep drop last week. He projected that the main index could recover 15 to 20 points this week.

"It's faster going down, harder going up," he said.

BARGAIN-HUNTING/ B6

Group urges suspension of petroleum taxes

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PARTY-LIST Bayan Muna yesterday pressed for a temporary suspension of specific taxes on pump prices of oil, which it said could mean savings for jeepney drivers of as much as P1.63 a liter and for ordinary motorists of P4 to P5 a liter.

"All the government has to do is to muster enough political will to make its own 'ultimate sacrifice'," Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said in a statement.

Ocampo said such "sacrifice" was similar to a gesture that President Macapagal-Arroyo made when in April 2002 she ordered the reduction of state-firm National Power Corp.'s purchased power cost adjustment (PPCA) to 40 centavos a kilowatt-hour.

The move meant an average nationwide reduction of the PPCA by 80 centavos per kWh.

Napocor charges its customers—which are mostly distribution utilities—the PPCA for costs it incurred in buying electricity from independent power producers.

Utilities, in turn, pass on PPCA costs to end-consumers as the PPA or purchased power adjustment. At its highest, the PPA accounted for about half of end-consumers' monthly bills.

"(Ms Macapagal ordered the reduction of the PPCA) at the height of the anti-PPA protests led by militant groups against power distributor Meralco," Ocampo said.

GROUP/ B6

BSP warns of tighter money policies to stem peso slide

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said it could raise overnight rates or hike banks' reserve requirement some more if the weakness of the local currency would persist.

The central bank would also use stronger moral suasion on banks to make sure they tow the line, according to BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

Bankers said the local currency would stay volatile because the factors that have dragged the peso down in the first place—political uncertainties and a shortage of dollars in the spot market—have not been addressed.

"The Monetary Board is prepared to take additional policy action to make sure orderly financial conditions are maintained and price stability is achieved," Tetangco said in an interview.

As demand for dollars build up toward the end of the month, traders said the peso could again fall to 56.20 to a dollar or even lower in the coming weeks.

But BSP managing director Diwa Guinigundo said the bank reserve increase should stabilize the peso below the 56:$1 level.

"Increasing policy rates is an option but there is no compelling reason to do it now. The (Monetary) Board chose to hike the reserve rather than the overnight rates because it is difficult to hold on to a rate hike without affecting growth. The BSP is adopting a calibrated approach to the problem of a volatile peso," Guinigundo said.

The policy-making Monetary Board of the BSP jacked up by 2 percentage points the banks' reserve requirement on deposits and deposit substitutes to 19 percent effective Feb. 6 to siphon off about P30 billion in excess liquidity from the system that could have been used to speculate against the peso.

The BSP overnight rates are currently at 6.75 percent for borrowing and 9 percent for lending. The key policy rates were last adjusted on July 2, 2003, after the Monetary Board decided to reduce these by 25 basis points.

But this year, monetary authorities were likely to raise the rates to keep the inflation average within the 4-5 percent goal. In January, inflation based on 2000 prices already stood at 4.1 percent.

"The market corrected after the BSP an

BSP WARNS/ B6

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The global economy: Challenges and opportunities for Mindanao

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

FORMER Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos once said, "we must learn to swim with the sharks—or drown in the rising tide of globalization."

I'm sure there are divergent views as to President Ramos' chosen strategy during his term. Regardless of our views on the former President—and I respect all your educated opinions—I think President Ramos hit the nail right on the head when he said this.

As I have often stressed in past presentations, globalization is upon us.

Recent changes in the global marketplace have opened windows of opportunities for Mindanao's economy. New trade pacts such as the GATT, WTO and the CEPT scheme have the overall effect of enlarging the potential markets for Mindanao's goods and services.

Now is the time for Mindanao to take advantage of these opportunities. Relative to Northern Philippines, the island has more natural resources, a stronger and more competitive agricultural base and a highly entrepreneurial, literate and, in large measure, empowered populace.

These strengths, however, are fragile and highly limited. Unless they are judiciously managed and vigorously reinforced through major structural reforms, the island economy will be ill-equipped to compete in the international market.

Current scenario

We can safely assume that Mindanao is still a far cry from our objectives of a truly vibrant regional sub-economy, but this is understandable as we have yet to resolve major and chronic impediments, like our conflict and poverty situations.

Nevertheless, the current trend shows moderate successes in various niches of our economy: increasing investments in the island reflect signs of improving business sector; gradual increase in business activity as indicated by the increasing cargo traffic that comes in and out of Mindanao, and, Mindanao is currently enjoying the improving economic climate in Asia as shown in the positive growth of our foreign exports. Overall foreign exports performance slightly improved last year with a projected 21.6 percent increase from the 2002 level.

Recent developments in Mindanao pertinent to global competitiveness:

• Tariff reductions on Mindanao exports

The announcement of the President last year regarding the US government's decision to include selected Philippine products including banana, pineapple and canned tuna in the US Generalized System of Preference (GSP) is a welcome development.

The United States consumes almost 30 percent of Mindanao's tuna exports and nearly 55 percent of our pineapple exports (fresh and processed). Mindanao shall likewise benefit from the acceptance of bananas in the US-GSP because Mindanao provides for more than 95 percent of the country's banana export requirements. More importantly, this development will unburden our tuna exporters particularly from General Santos and Zamboanga around 6-12 percent tariff duties.

Aside from tuna, the inclusion of other products such as seaweeds and pineapple juice will further boost our Carageenan and pineapple industries in Zamboanga, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and General Santos City, Bukidnon, respectively.

• The Strong Republic Nautical Highway

Launched by the president last year, the SRNH marks the culmination of a five-year advocacy to implement an out-of-the-box solution pushed by the Mindanao Business Groups to reduce sea transport cost using the Road Roll-on Roll-off port terminal system.

While contributing to a more cost-competitive Mindanao commodity base, the nautical highway is intended to radically transform how our agricultural goods are transported through consolidation. Consolidation is the key toward a more cost-efficient transport of goods and prepares our farmers for the next level in exporting through inter-modal linkages.

• Other developments in the transport sector

Facilitating access to foreign markets are the other developments related to transport. One is the addition in our international air linkages through the General Santos-Bitung air route.

The other is the recent opening of the new Davao International Airport. The DIA again is a major accomplishment for Mindanao stakeholders in the relentless push for its opening late last year. Having been pronounced by President Macapagal-Arroyo as the hub to the BIMP-Eaga, this development will spur the business community and the local government to ensure its viability.

• The Doha "debacle"

As you very well know, WTO member-countries met in Doha, Qatar, last November 2003. The consensus was to launch another round of negotiations for the World Trade Organization. The new round of negotiations begins this year, 2004.

This event is significant for us in three ways: First, what happened at Doha is not

MINDANAWORLD/ B7

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BOI, Peza investments rose 1.7% in 2003

By Michelle V. Remo

DESPITE negative events early in the year, government-registered investments slightly grew by 1.7 percent in 2003 due to the entry of big projects in the second half.

The Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority reported a combined approved investments of P56.73 billion in 2003, which was higher than the P55.8 billion recorded the previous year.

Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Purisima said big-ticket projects in the latter part of 2003 were able to compensate for the slowdown in investments in the first half that was brought by the impact of the US-Iraq war and the SARS outbreak.

He noted that the 34-percent rise in investments in the second half of 2003 offset the 29-percent slump in the first six months of the year.

Purisima cited the projects of Victorias Bioenergy Inc. and Consolidated Mining Co.—two of the biggest investments made last year amounting to P4.58 billion and P4 billion, respectively.

"We see a silver lining in terms of investments this year, especially with the resurgence of the world economy," Purisima said.

He added that the projected growth in the economies of the United States and Japan—major trading partners of the Philippines—is expected to result in the entry of more foreign investments this year.

The trade chief also said that increased investments led to an increase in employment last year. Peza earlier reported that employment among firms registered with the government agency last year grew by 10.10 percent.

Purisima added that 60,000 more jobs were expected to be generated once the 401 newly approved projects become fully operational this year.

Of the total investments registered last year, foreign investors accounted for P33.27 billion, while the locals poured in P23.46 billion.

The real estate, renting and business activities sector posted the highest investment growth of 313 percent last year. From P903 million in 2002, investments contributed by the sector soared to P3.73 billion in 2003.

Investments from the electricity, gas and water supply sector likewise grew by 269 percent to P7.29 billion last year from P2.71 billion in 2002.

Investments in the agriculture and forestry sector jumped by 223 percent to P2.71 billion from P841 million in 2002.

Investments in the information technology sector, which includes the "sunshine industry" of contact centers, grew 23 percent last year to P6.42 billion. About 69 percent of total IT investments in 2003 came from contact centers, which poured in P4.46 billion.

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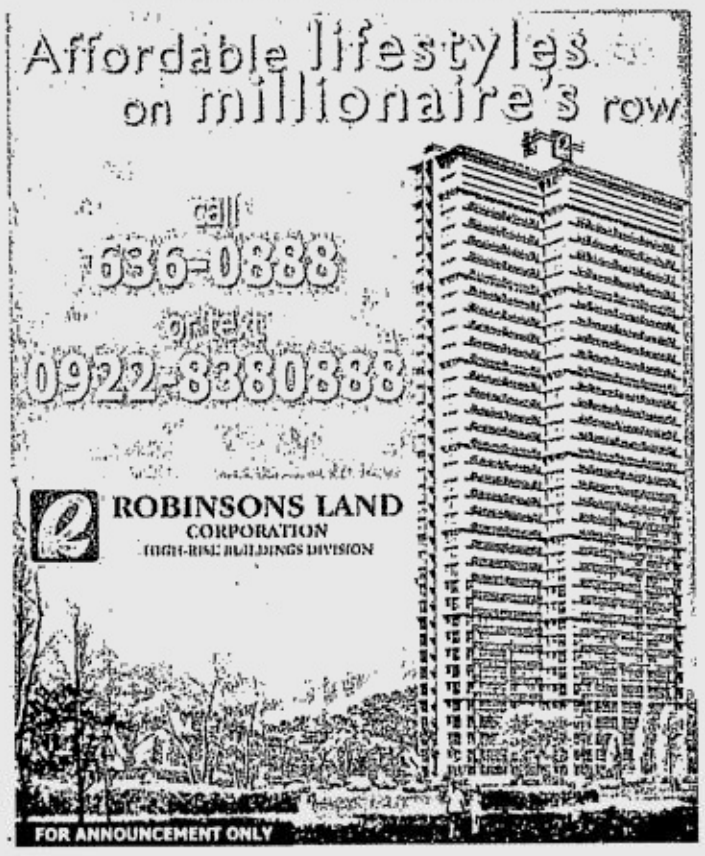

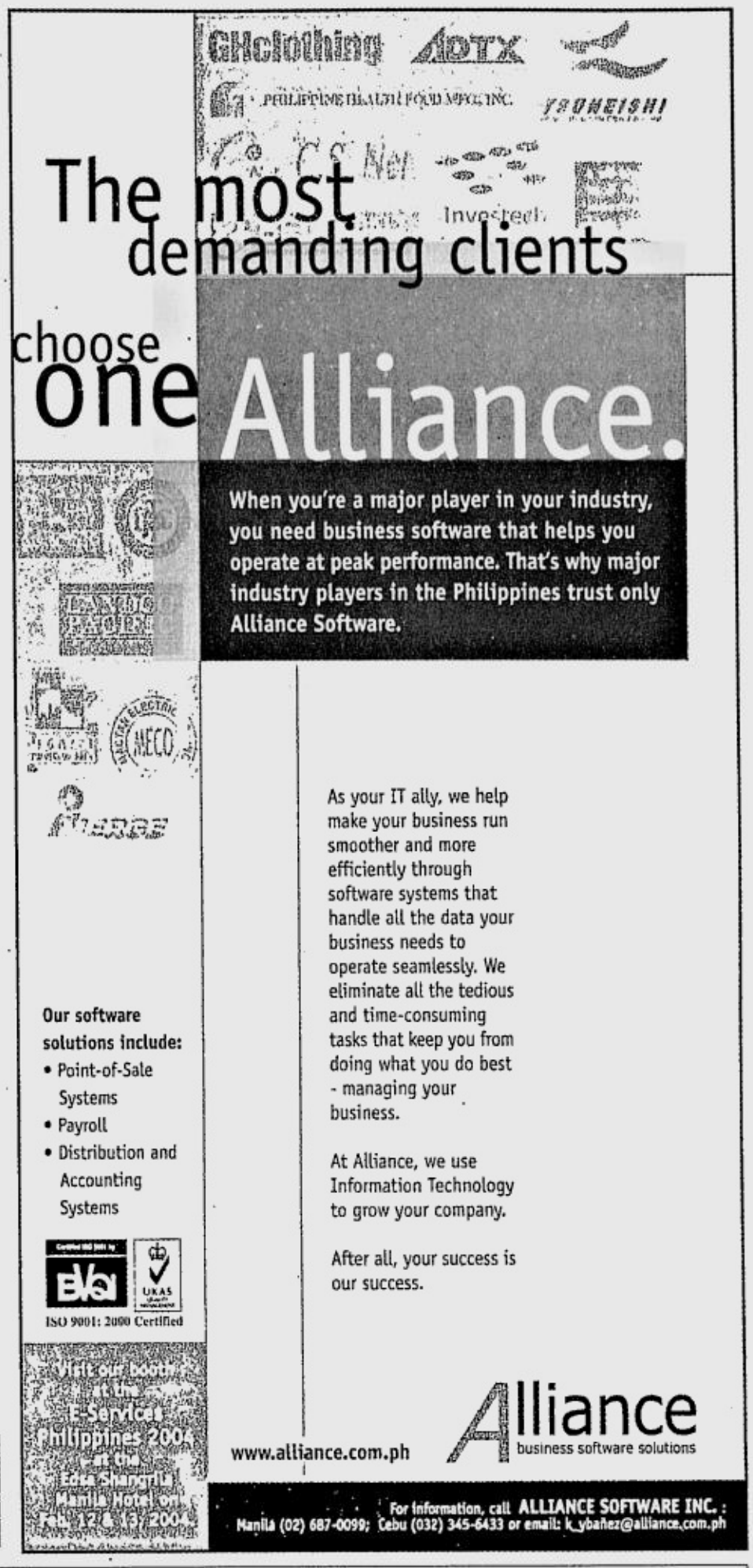

Digitel launches new phone program

DIGITAL Telecommunications Inc. (Digitel) has launched a program that allows Filipino residents to get a phone line that is paid in advance by their relatives based in the United States.

The Phone@Home program is in partnership with the Fil-Am Phone Club of the USA and targets first-time phone subscribers, said Digitel vice president for marketing Rosemarie Pineda.

"We're also looking at making this program available in the near future to Filipinos in Japan, Hong Kong, Milan and other destinations where there is an abundance of Filipino contract workers who can pay for the telephone lines of their relatives here in Luzon," she said.

Pineda said the Phone@Home lines can be used for unlimited local calls. Long distance calls are charged through Digitel's pre-paid card facility, Digikard, which can also be used for Internet access.

Pineda said that for the relatives here, there will be no monthly bills to worry about since the monthly fees have all been paid for by the relatives abroad.

Pineda said a Fil-Am Phone Club member in the United States only has to call 1-800-220-5194 to subscribe for his relatives in the Philippines, choose the package, confirm availability of facilities in his relatives' area and pay the subscription fee. Installation of the phone line and unit will follow soon after payment has been confirmed.

Impsa gets gov't permit to operate CBK facilities

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission has issued permits allowing the commercial operation of the controversial Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan power complex and also for facilities used by six businesses for their own power needs.

ERC Chair Rodolfo B. Albano Jr. said certificates of compliance (COCs) would hopefully send a positive signal to investors that the regulator was diligently promoting reforms and balancing the interests of investors and consumers.

Albano said the permits meant that the companies were complying with the standards set by the government, including Grid and Distribution Codes, the rules of the wholesale electricity spot market, the limits on market share and ownership and environmental requirements.

Independent power producer CBK Power Co. Ltd. was granted three COCs for the operation of National Power Corp.'s 354-megawatt Kalayaan I plant, 35.7-MW Caliraya plant and 22.325-MW Botocan plant.

All three are hydropower plants and are located in the towns of Kalayaan, Lumban and Majayjay in Laguna.

Social advocacy groups, including University of the Philippines-based think tank Freedom from Debt Coalition, had urged Malacañang to rescind CBK Power's contract with Napocor amid allegations of the company bribing government officials.

The FDC said the 25-year build-rehabilitate-operate-transfer contract was overpriced and aggravated the government's fiscal problems.

However, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. had the government get $95 million (about P5 billion) in savings when it reached a mutually acceptable settlement with CBK Power in renegotiating the contract.

The contract involves the $486-million rehabilitation work on and maintenance and operation of the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan power plants.

CBK Power is a 50-50 joint venture between Industrias Metalurgicas Pescarmona Sociedad Anonyma (Impsa) of Argentina and Edison Mission Energy of the United States.

The other companies that were given COCs to run their power plants were: Epson Precision (Phils.) Inc. for its 3-MW diesel-fired plant at the Lima Technological Center, Lipa City, Batangas, and another 2-MW diesel-fed plant at the Light Industry Science Park, Cabuyao, Laguna; Solid Cement Corp. for its 20.4-MW Bunker C-fired plant in Antipolo City, Rizal; Apo Cement Corp. for its 66-MW Bunker C-fired plant in Naga, Cebu; Fuji Plastic Industry Phils. for its 127-kilowatt diesel-fired generator at the Clark Export Processing Zone in Pampanga, and Nippon Antenna (Phils.), Inc. for its 490-KW diesel-fired generator at the First Cavite Industrial Estate.

Napocor fuel supply biddings fail

NATIONAL Power Corp. is calling for bids on a contract for the supply and delivery of coal worth about P190 million even as auctions held last week for various diesel and coal contracts failed.

Napocor officials said a Feb. 5 bidding for two coal contracts worth a total of $36.66 million (about P2.01 billion) and a Feb. 3 auction for three diesel contracts worth a total of P95.37 million failed as there were only lone bidders who offered prices above the budgets.

According to the officials, only coal trader Jibsen submitted a bid for two contract worth $18.33 million each for the fuel requirements of the 1,200-megawatt Sual plant in Pangasinan and the 600-MW Masinloc plant in Zambales.

Each of the coal contracts represented the second batch of shipments covering 325,000 metric tons.

The supplier, trading coal from China's Shanxi mines, offered fuel for Sual at $19.5 million and for Masinloc at $32.1 million.

Napocor had postponed the coal contract auctions four times due to repeated bidding failures.

Despite this, Napocor is calling for tenders in yet another auction for the fuel needs of its Naga power plant in Cebu to be held on Feb. 23.

The power firm has allocated a budget of $3.42 million (about P190 million) for 70,000 metric tons of coal.

At the same time, the auctions for the supply and delivery of diesel to three power facilities failed last Tuesday as only Caltex Philippines Inc. submitted bids that were above the budget.

Napocor had called for tenders for the supply and delivery of :

- 3,632 kiloliters of diesel for the 10.16-MW Batanyan Island plant at no more than P70.68 million;
- 1,200 kiloliters of diesel for the 3.36-MW Power Barge 116, located in Cebu, at no more then P23.35 million, and
- 69 kiloliters of diesel for the 326-kilowatt Doong plant in Cebu at no more than P1,342,724. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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Bills, bills, bills

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

NO, this isn't about those envelopes you get in the mail with little windows on them. It's about the other kind of bills—the ones we wish our lawmakers would spend more of their time on and less on those so-called hearings in aid of legislation (or of something else).

Based on data reported in the Congress website and those cited in the advocacy paper "The Roadmap to More Foreign Investment" released by AmCham Philippines in March last year, it appears that the current Twelfth Congress has not been as productive as the last three Congresses before it. Counting the number of significant national laws passed (i.e. excluding local laws, individual franchises and minor laws declaring holidays and renaming streets), the first two sessions of the current Congress only managed 9 and 26 laws, respectively. The third and final session that virtually ended last Friday (save for some largely ceremonial tasks when they convene again for a few days in June) isn't coming up with much.

The Ninth Congress (1992-1995) had passed 102 laws (9, 26 and 57 for the first to third sessions respectively), the Tenth Congress (1995-1998) passed 46 laws (20, 10 and 16), and the Eleventh Congress (1998-2001) passed 49 laws (4, 17 and 28).

Slim pickings

Taking only the significant bills with direct implications for the economy, you can count them on your fingers. The first session (July 2001-June 2002) came up with the Anti-Money Laundering Act (Amla), the Rental Reform Act, and the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of 2002. The second session yielded the Chainsaw Act, the SPAV Law, Government E-Procurement, Magna Carta for Micro Enterprises, Amendments to the Amla, the Free Patent Law, and the GAA 2003.

For the third and final session, we have the Rationalization of the Excise Tax on Automobiles, the Securitization Act and the Documentary Stamps Tax Law so far, with possibly a few more coming out of the Bicameral Conference Committee. These include Amendments to the PDIC Charter, Clean Water Act, the Optical Media Law and the Anti-Terrorism Act. The Farmland as Collateral Bill has apparently been given up for gone. Even the 2004 budget has been given up, with the decision to just re-enact the 2003 budget.

Down the drain

Many of us had hoped for much more from this Congress. As things now stand, the most important ones have gone down the drain, and will have to wait for the 13th Congress and start all over again with a new cast of characters to contend with. Those in our wish list that didn't quite make it include the following:

Indexation of Sin Taxes—This would have corrected one of the major causes for the erosion of our tax revenues in recent years. When Congress passed the Comprehensive Tax Reform Law in 1997, the provision that would have automatically adjusted (i.e. indexed) the taxes on tobacco and alcoholic products for inflation was dropped. As a result, these products have effectively become more and more lightly taxed every year, and our government has been losing billions in revenues as a result. It seems that the lobby against this key revenue measure from those who would pay it is just too strong.

NARA Bill—Turning the Bureau of Internal Revenue into the National Authority for Revenue Administration (NARA) is regarded by many as the main hope for getting our government finances back into order at the quickest time. Most of the countries that made this switch to a more flexible revenue authority reaped substantial improvements in revenue collection efficiency. In our case, I am convinced that we need not wait until 2010 (which is the present target) to balance the government budget if only our Congress musters the political will to pass this crucial piece of legislation.

Campaign Finance Reform Act—While not an economic bill per se, this is a bill that would dramatically change the color of our national politics by allowing qualified but financially incapable candidates to stand a chance for getting elected to public office. With better governance that such reform could bring about would come improved economic performance as well. Unfortunately, meaningful political reforms like this seem to be perennially eluding us.

Enforcement: the other half

In fairness, it is often said that we have enough of good laws and have a generally superior legal system compared to some of our neighbors, but what really keeps us lagging behind them is that we fall apart in enforcing them. Much has been said about this, and I need not elaborate.

Still, a country's legal system cannot just stand still, and the rapidly changing circumstances in the global and national economy calls for constant adjustments in our legal framework. Thus, I found the AmCham report's definition of weak governance particularly apt: weak governance, it said, includes inability to move a legislative agenda through the Congress efficiently and to adequately implement existing law (emphasis mine). Good governance, anyone? *Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu*

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Lhuillier reloaded

AMBASSADOR Philippe Lhuillier has been cleared by the Department of Foreign Affairs of any abuse of diplomatic privileges and immunities surrounding a container-load of "religious junk" he shipped home from Italy last year.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin said the joint fact-finding mission sent by Malacañang and the DFA to Rome last month found no prima facie evidence to support allegations of Lhuillier using his position to bring in antique Italian furniture duty-free.

Lhuillier actually paid P32,206 in import duties and value-added tax for the 40-foot container van-full of what had officially been declared as $6,000-worth of "second-hand" Italian furniture.

Because of the allegation and the subsequent investigation, Lhuillier, whose family owns the high-end Oceanic boutique of European artifacts, has been unable to return to Italy since the Christmas holidays.

According to the grapevine, the De La Salle University alumni association also withheld naming Lhuillier an outstanding alumnus for the school's alumni homecoming next month pending the results of the investigation.

Lhuillier is a member of the high school class 1964 when the Taft campus was an all-male bastion.

And, in an ironic twist, the lead member of the fact-finding team, Assistant DFA Secretary Ofelia Gonzales, has been named consul-general to Milan, and would be reporting to Lhuillier.

The current Milan consul-general, Romeo Manalo, who had just been reassigned from Bangkok and has just unpacked his own container van of personal effects, is now being transferred to the consulate in Sydney.

According to the grapevine, Lhuillier himself and the rest of the political appointees had already been advised by Padre Faura to return to Manila by June 30, even if President Macapagal-Arroyo wins the May election.

Lhuillier is an appointee of President Estrada and the Italian posting is his first government and diplomatic assignment.

All bases covered

IT was not so long ago that investment banker Luis Juan "Buboy" Virata was grumbling and talking revolt with fellow Cavite politicians about the seeming gridlock within the GMA Malacañang.

Now, within a week, Virata had no less than the President herself as guest of honor to inaugurate two major infrastructure projects that Virata had helped package: the rehabilitation of National Steel Corp. and the extension of the Coastal Road into the heart of congested Cavite.

Not only would the extended road cut travel time between the bedroom communities of Cavite and Makati, it would also make scenic Caylabne resort and neighboring Puerto Azul in Ternate an ideal day-time destination.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Caylabne just happens to be owned by the Viratas, incidentally.

Besides Buboy, former Finance Undersecretary Romeo Bernardo also provided financial advise for the NSC rehab, with lawyer Mela Bengzon handling the legal and regulatory aspects.

Even in the event of a feared Poe presidency, the joke is that there should now be continuity for the multibillion-peso steel mill project, since Bernardo's wife, Amina Rasul, happens to be running for senator under FPJ.

Heard through the grapevine

GLORIA Maris has tapped former PNB president Peter Favila to advise the seafood-Chinese food restaurant chain about its plan to list, possibly by the last quarter of the year.

The chain also wants to bring in the wildly popular Krispy Kreme doughnuts from the United States, but admits the nearly $3-million total franchise fees pose a huge entry barrier.

Per their initial calculations, Krispy Kreme would have to be sold at the market-unrealistic price of P50/piece and higher, given the deteriorating peso-dollar exchange rate.

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Public debt hit ₱5.39T in end-Sept '03

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES' consolidated public debt swelled to P5.39 trillion as of end-September 2003, up P424 billion or 8.53 percent from P4.967 trillion the year before.

The total government debt, made up of outstanding borrowings of the national government, state-owned banks and corporations, and the central bank, was equivalent to more than 120 percent of the country's gross national product, according to government documents.

The country's huge level of public debt is comparable to that of Argentina although government officials argued that the Philippines' obligations were falling due in the medium to long term compared to the Latin American country's mostly short-term debts.

Compared to end-2002, the consolidated public debt grew by P228 billion or 4.4 percent from P5.16 trillion.

The total debt stock already included the national government's outstanding debt worth P3.2 trillion as of September. Outstanding obligations of the central bank, the 14 government-owned and -controlled corporations, government financial institutions, and the liquidated central bank accounted for the rest.

The increasing level of the country's debt has been a source of concern for investors, credit-rating agencies, and multilateral institutions like the International Monetary Fund.

In the IMF's World Economic Outlook last year, the Fund said "emerging market economies may again be on the verge of public debt problems." From 1997, the IMF said public debt was higher in most Asian and Latin American economies by 15 percent.

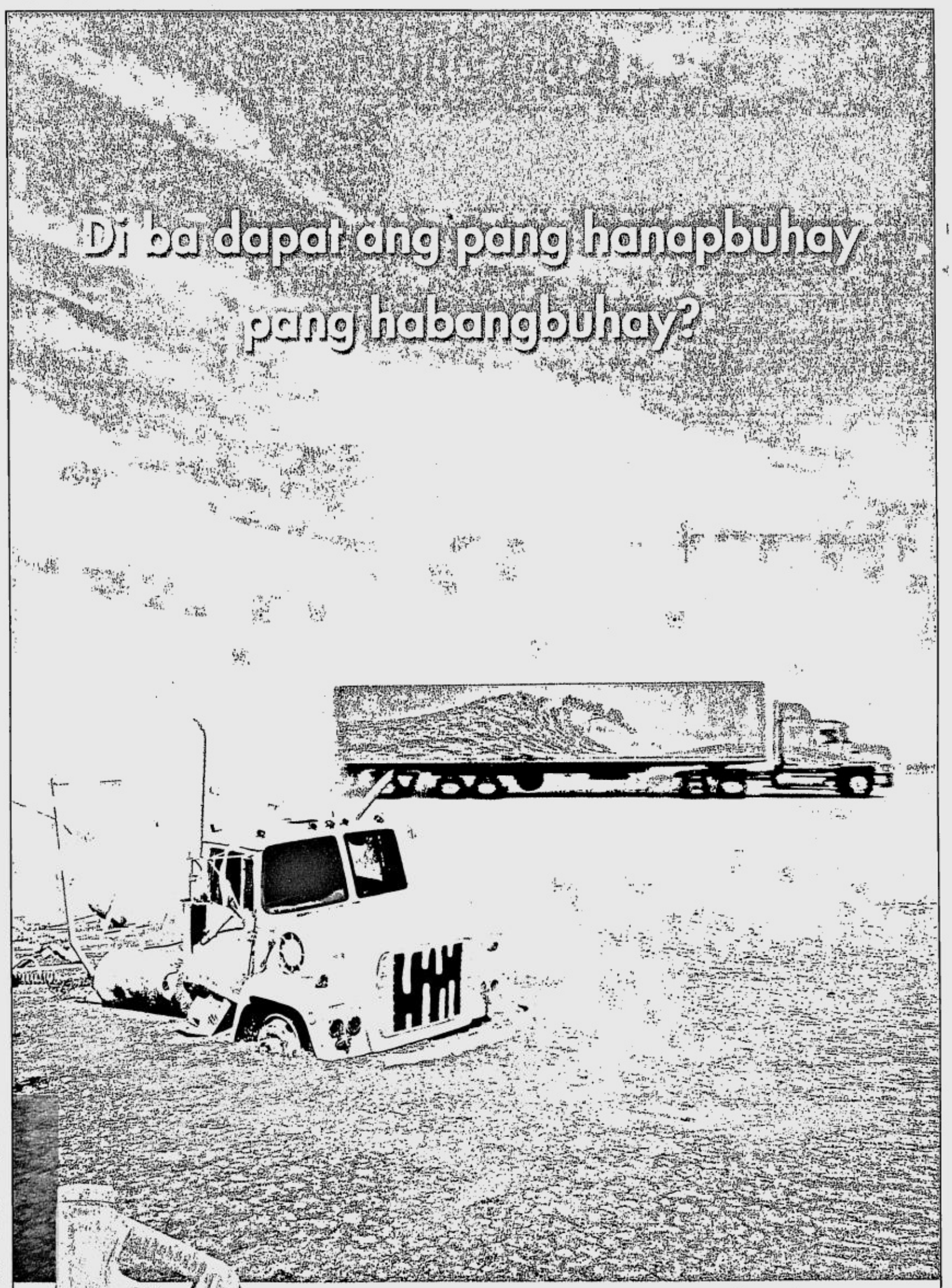
In the Philippines, the public sector debt stock stood at only 105.6 percent of GNP in 1997. But even then, the country's consolidated debt was already outpacing the economy and dropped only below 100 percent in recent history in 1996 when it stood at 98.9 percent.

Simply put, the Philippines' total output is not enough to pay for its debts.

The IMF emphasized that at the current trend, the level of public debt is far from being sustainable given that in its calculations, "the sustainable public debt level for a typical emerging market economy may only be 25 percent of GDP, compared to 75 percent of GDP for a typical industrial country."

The country's overall outstanding debt has

PUBLIC/ B6



Pababayaan mo bang huminto ang mga biyahe mo dahil laspag na ang mga piston? Pare, nakasalalay sa makina mo ang takbo ng iyong kita at buhay. Kapag ayos ang takbo, dala nito ay asenso para sa iyo at iyong pamilya. Kaya kailangan mo ng isang heavy-duty diesel engine oil na magbibigay ng pinakamagaling na proteksiyon laban sa laspag. Kahit nagpapahinga na ang driver, ang sasakyan buhay na buhay pa rin.

For longer oil life. Longer engine life. Dapat Shell Rimula lang.

SEC chair backs PSE board on sale of bourse shares

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission yesterday gave its blessings to the Philippine Stock Exchange board to pursue the sale of PSE shares despite opposition from some brokers.

Exercising its authority over the PSE, the corporate regulator told the PSE board not to succumb to moves that might further delay the sale of PSE shares, which is mandated by the Securities Regulation Code.

In a press briefing, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the PSE board need not get the approval of the majority of the PSE shareholders to sell the bourse's own shares. She added that the SEC—and not the brokers—have the say on the sale of PSE shares.

BAUTISTA

"Rules on PSE trading is solely our discretion. The rules on how the shares should be traded are not covered by the PSE's self-regulatory status," Bautista said.

A group of brokers led by former PSE chairs Robert Coyiuto and Trinidad Kalaw said the PSE board could not push through with the sale of PSE shares unless it got the approval of the majority of the shareholders.

The brokers are opposing the mandate by the PSE board to sell shares at P119.50 each. They said the P119.50 price was way below market value, and selling the shares at this level would be detrimental to the interest of the PSE shareholders.

The SEC, however, opined that the P119.50 share price was not discounted contrary to claims by the brokers.

The brokers are against diluting their shares at a price of P119.50 each because its last closing price was P195.

But while the mandated selling price of P119.50 was lower than the last closing of P195, it was still higher than the book value of about P105 a share.

The SEC earlier ordered the PSE to dilute the equity of brokers, who still own abut 99 percent of the exchange, to comply with the provision of the Securities Regulation Code requiring the demutualization of the PSE.

In a letter to brokers, PSE president Cayetano Paderanga Jr. said the PSE board has tapped ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc. to sell the PSE shares through a private placement.

The sale is expected to generate P733 million for the exchange.

PSE approves election guidelines

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE OUTGOING Philippine Stock Exchange board has approved the guidelines to be adopted by its nomination and election committee (nomelec) in supervising the election of the next 15-member board of directors.

The PSE elections, which usually sizzle with controversies each year, are scheduled during the next stockholders meeting this March 13.

PSE president Cayetano Paderanga Jr. said the nomelec guidelines this year were "almost similar" to the blueprint followed during last year's election.

The PSE board consists of 15 members, of which eight are non-brokers. Of the non-brokers, one will be the president, three will be independent directors and four will represent the interest of issuers, investors and other market participants not associated with any broker-dealer or PSE stockholders over the last two years.

The remaining seven members of the board of directors will be brokers proportionately representing the stockholders in terms of volume and value of trade as well as paid-up capital.

Brokers whose individually computed combined values are equal to or above P500 million are categorized as big brokers while those below P500 million are categorized as small brokers.

Over the last two years, the PSE elections have been marred by controversies on the election of non-brokers who control majority of the board and are thus crucial in the election of the PSE chair.

Last year, for instance, the opposition party pulled out of the elections due to disagreements on the choice of some non-broker candidates.

Of the four non-broker directors outside of the president and independent directors, the guidelines state that:

- two will represent the interest of issuer companies listed in the PSE and will be nominated by the association of listed companies;
- one will represent the interest of the investors, and shall have been nominated by Investment Companies Association of the Philippines, Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System or Bankers Association of the Philippines through its trust fund division or unit which manages common trust funds invested in listed equity shares, and
- the remaining one will represent the interest of other market participants, and shall have been nominated by the association of other market participants such as Investment Houses Association of the Philippines.

A nominee who is associated with a brokerage firm or who represents an institution associated with a brokerage firm will only be nominated for a broker-director position.

The nomelec said it would accept nominations until Feb. 13 and approve the list of candidates by Feb. 18.

Group urges suspension . . .

From page B1

He emphasized that while Bayan Muna was for the repeal of the Downstream Oil Deregulation Act of 1998 or of RA 8479, he was suggesting the suspension of specific taxes only as a temporary measure and a direct challenge to the government's political will.

"I refuse to buy the government's oft-repeated line that it is powerless over the oil price hikes because of the deregulation law," Ocampo added.

"On the contrary, the government can order the temporary suspension of specific taxes to bring down oil prices," he said. "It can even order a comprehensive review, or even the total repeal of the oil deregulation law which has caused so much hardship to the (public)."

Citing data from the Department of Energy's Oil Industry Management Bureau, the lawmaker said the following were the prevailing specific taxes based on pump prices: P5.35 a liter of premium gasoline; P4.35 a liter of unleaded gasoline; P4.80 a liter of regular gasoline; P0.60 a liter of kerosene; P1.63 a liter of diesel, and P0.30 a liter of fuel oil.

Bargain-hunting

From page B1

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' decision to tighten money supply by raising the reserve requirement on banks would mean that some funds would shift away from stocks to the fixed income market, Garcia said.

"But the effect (on stocks) won't be that much," Garcia said.

Many analysts agreed that the market would resume its rally this week.

Jomar Lacson, an analyst at TeamResearch, said the telecommunication stocks which dragged the index down last week—Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Globe Telecom—had hit oversold levels and could see some upward movement this week.

"If the market moves up this week, they will be the driver, but given the momentum, it looks like the index is having difficulty rising back to 1,500," Lacson said.

PLDT has yet to release its 2003 earnings report, but given Globe Telecom's results, Lacson said the stock should also report good earnings.

Lacson also said the market had anticipated the BSP's monetary tightening during its freefall following the peso's depreciation to historic lows.

"Expect the technical rebound to test the 1,480-1,500 levels over the near-term before it resumes the last leg of the correction, which could test the 1,400 levels," said Banco de Oro Universal Bank strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

Web-based Philstocks.net, on the other hand, said the market might choose to digest the rest of corporate earnings results in determining whether a further rally was justifiable.

"The earnings reports and outlooks have been fairly positive, but we believe that trading has been tentative recently, with the market wanting to give itself room to breathe after the big run it has had," Philstocks.net said.

"As the earnings season winds down, we may see the market headed for a pause. The lack of other market-moving news coupled with lingering concerns over politics and the domestic economy will dampen activity at the PSE. Political worries are likely to linger as the campaign season for the May polls gets underway on Feb. 10," it said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Public debt hit . . .

From page B5

more than doubled since 1996 when it stood at only P2.24 trillion.

Over the last 10 years, the consolidated public debt stock had increased by more than P3 trillion or 160 percent from P1.91 trillion in 1993. At that time, the country's total debt already exceeded the total output at an even higher ratio of 127.5 percent of GNP.

"Many emerging markets have difficulty in running budget surpluses needed to ensure sustainability of public debt. This is because revenues in these economies are quite low reflecting a large informal sector and significant tax exemptions," the IMF said.

The Fund said the road to a firm and lasting downtrend in public debt should be pursued with a package of reforms in tax administration as well as expenditure management that would help improve fiscal position and grow the economy.

"It is difficult to reduce public debt ratios without robust economic growth," the IMF added. In the Philippines, however, growth had been largely modest through the years.

Mired in debts, the government has to pay P271.5 billion in interest this year and P270.7 billion in principal. Last year, interest and principal payments stood at P230.7 billion and P195 billion, respectively.

Debt service as a ratio of the gross domestic product would increase this year to 11.6 percent from 9.9 percent in 2003 and 9.1 percent in 2002.

BSP poises tighter . . .

From page B1

there are voluminous foreign currency trading," Reyes said.

"Those with dollar require ments but have no documents go to the black market. If the premium in the black market persists, then it could be a signal of capital flight. There could be investors, particularly the Filipino-Chinese, who could be taking their funds out," said a currency dealer from a foreign bank.

Reyes said the BSP could also re-issue existing policies to remind banks that currency regulations were in place and should be observed.

One regulation the central bank could re-issue is the policy limiting undocumented dollar purchases to no more than $5,000. Dollar transactions above $5,000 would have to be fully documented. Reyes said the BSP would also remind banks that dollar transactions worth $10,000 would already qualify as covered transactions under the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Even the number of examiners conducting on-spot audit on banks could be doubled, according to Reyes. "From the usual 5 to 7 examiners, we could double the members of each team conducting audit on banks with high volumes of dollar transactions."

Two weeks ago, the Monetary Board instructed the BSP to slap fines and enforce administrative penalties especially on banks found repeatedly violating foreign exchange rules.

"We will suspend the foreign exchange licenses of banks incurring more than 3 violations. The most common violation is splitting and so we are very watchful," Reyes said.

Abank splits dollar purchases especially when it had no accompanying documents to circumvent a BSP order requiring it to fully document transactions worth $5,000 and above.

BSP warns of tighter . . .

From page B1

nounced a reserve hike not because of the increase in reserves but because of the signal that the central bank sent that it would take action if the situation worsens," said a treasury official from a foreign bank.

"But the specific action of raising reserves is not going to do much because it does not solve the problem of why there is shortage in dollars in the spot market, why people wanted to buy dollars and why those with dollars do not want to sell. So given this, last week's correction is only temporary," the banker added.

Guinigundo said that the impact of a reserve hike could take time. He also admitted that factors like political jitters could still pull down the local currency.

Tetangco said the reserve increase last week was a preemptive action because if the trend of a weaker peso continued, the inflation would go beyond the government's target this year. *Clarissa S. Batino*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 6, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17	17	119,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	47.5	45.5	47	375,200
China Banking Corp.	670	670	670	670	3,010
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.5	9,500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	400,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26	25.5	25.5	197,200
Philippine National Bank	23.75	24	23.75	23.75	7,100
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	4,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	111	149	111	148	580
Manulife Financial Corp.	1985	1985	1985	1985	330
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	16,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1505	1505	1500	1500	1,770
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.5	23	22.5	23	75,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	950,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	850	870	845	865	202,290
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	24,195,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.2	0.2	0.14	0.14	70,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.34	1.38	1.34	1.38	116,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	865	925	865	910	318,740
Ivantage Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	20,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	3,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18	18.75	18	18.75	370,600
Manila Electric Co. B	28.5	30.5	27.5	30	2,435,900
Petron Corp.	2.8	3	2.8	3	1,677,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	106,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	387,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	9,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	35,800
Pancake House Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	1,600,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	40,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56	55	56	282,000
San Miguel Corp. B	69	69.5	69	69.5	141,500
Universal Robina Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	68,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	650,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	4,383,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	496,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.9	1.02	0.9	1.02	3,820,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	51,000,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.6	0.56	0.58	15,000,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.19	1,020,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.031	200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	21.5	22.75	21.5	22.75	665,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	200,000
Ionics Inc.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.42	421,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	24,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	330,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.29	7,340,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.75	68,600
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	200,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	210,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	110,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.5	23	22.5	22.75	412,700
OTHERS					
FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY	405	405	405	405	1,170
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6	5.8	5.8	9,791,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.22	390,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	19,651,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	63,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.2	6	6.2	9,567,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	1,150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	120,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	360,000

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BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	please call
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB "B"	60K	-
CAMP JOHN HAY	220K	-
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	450K	-
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	140K	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	170K	-
CLUB FILIPINO	140K	please call
EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"	100K	-
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"	280K	-
FILIPINAS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	300K	-
FONTANA "D"	50K	please call
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	190K	please call
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	please call	9.7M
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)	-	10.8M
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	2.3M
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	400K	375K
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	330K	-
METRO CLUB	80K	-
MIMOSA C2	270K	-
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	-	22K
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	360K	-
PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	90K	-
PUNTA FUEGO	450K	-
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	-	please call
RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	-	200K
ROCKWELL CLUB	320K	280K
ROYALE TAGAYTAY	please call	-
SHERWOOD HILLS GOLF CLUB "B"	-	100K
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	-	1.1M
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	800K	-
VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB-IND.	-	100K
VALLEY GOLF CLUB	-	240K
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	7.3M	8.5M

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,100,000	1,250,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,150,000	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	700,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	60,000
Camp John Hay	-	220,000
Canlubang	400,000	450,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
Capitol Hills	120,000	150,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	Please Call
Celebrity Sports Club	150,000	200,000
Club Filipino	-	120,000
Eagleridge "A"	230,000	270,000
Eagleridge "B"	250,000	280,000
Eagleridge "C"	-	400,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	180,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	190,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	200,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	250,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	10,800,000	-
Manila Golf (Individual)	9,500,000	10,500,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,300,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	350,000	430,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	550,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	400,000
Metroclub "A"	90,000	110,000
Mimosa (Individual)	-	150,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	250,000	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	170,000	250,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	-	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club	Please Call	200,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	70,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	200,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Spa & Lodge	520,000	600,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,200,000	1,500,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,350,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	180,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	300,000	340,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	750,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	250,000
Valley Golf	250,000	300,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	-

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As of February 9, 2004

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,250,000/1,350,000*	1,200,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	650,000
Canlubang Golf Club	400,000	-
Canyon Woods	160,000	100,000
Camp John Hay	240,000	190,000
Capitol Hills	160,000	130,000
Calatagan Golf Club A/B**	70,000/Pls. Call	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,200,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	155,000
Club Filipino	Pls. Call	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	300,000/450,000**	250,000
Eastridge A/B*	-	70,000/100,000*
Evercrest	80,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	220,000*/250,000**	-
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	-	8,450,000
Manila Polo	-	2,200,000
Manila Yacht Club	550,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	430,000/520,000*	370,000/480,000*
Metropolitan Club	100,000	-
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	-	110,000/250,000*
Mimosa Golf C2	-	170,000
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	230,000/300,000*	-
Orchard B	-	Pls. Call
Phil. Columbian	55,000	-
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
Quezon City Sports Club A	170,000	-
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	130,000/150,000*/200,000**	100,000**
Rockwell Leisure Club	320,000	270,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Sherwoods A/B*/C**	70,000/Pls. Call*	90,000**
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,300,000/1,650,000*	-
Subic Bay Yacht Club (Corp.)	150,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	340,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	-
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Valley Golf & CC	300,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	140,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf	Pls. Call	6,300,000

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Forest Hills	130,000	-
Manila Polo	2,100,000	2,300,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	230,00
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	250,00
Punta Fuego	400,000	pls. call
Riviera "C"	-	180,000
Rockwell Club	280,000	325,000
Sharewoods "A"	-	100,000
Sharewoods "B"	100,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	pls. call	-
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	325,000	-
Wack Wack Golf Club	6,300,000	-

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SEC chair backs PSE board on sale of bourse shares

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission yesterday gave its blessings to the Philippine Stock Exchange board to pursue the sale of PSE shares despite opposition from some brokers.

Exercising its authority over the PSE, the corporate regulator told the PSE board not to succumb to moves that might further delay the sale of PSE shares, which is mandated by the Securities Regulation Code.

In a press briefing, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the PSE board need not get the approval of the majority of the PSE shareholders to sell the bourse's own shares. She added that the SEC—and not the brokers—have the say on the sale of PSE shares.

BAUTISTA

"Rules on PSE trading is solely our discretion. The rules on how the shares should be traded are not covered by the PSE's self-regulatory status," Bautista said.

A group of brokers led by former PSE chairs Robert Coyiuto and Trinidad Kalaw said the PSE board could not push through with the sale of PSE shares unless it got the approval of the majority of the shareholders.

The brokers are opposing the mandate by the PSE board to sell shares at P119.50 each. They said the P119.50 price was way below market value, and selling the shares at this level would be detrimental to the interest of the PSE shareholders.

The SEC, however, opined that the P119.50 share price was not discounted contrary to claims by the brokers.

The brokers are against diluting their shares at a price of P119.50 each because its last closing price was P195.

But while the mandated selling price of P119.50 was lower than the last closing of P195, it was still higher than the book value of about P105 a share.

The SEC earlier ordered the PSE to dilute the equity of brokers, who still own abut 99 percent of the exchange, to comply with the provision of the Securities Regulation Code requiring the demutualization of the PSE.

In a letter to brokers, PSE president Cayetano Paderanga Jr. said the PSE board has tapped ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc. to sell the PSE shares through a private placement.

The sale is expected to generate P733 million for the exchange.

PSE approves election guidelines

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE OUTGOING Philippine Stock Exchange board has approved the guidelines to be adopted by its nomination and election committee (nomelec) in supervising the election of the next 15-member board of directors.

The PSE elections, which usually sizzle with controversies each year, are scheduled during the next stockholders meeting this March 13.

PSE president Cayetano Paderanga Jr. said the nomelec guidelines this year were "almost similar" to the blueprint followed during last year's election.

The PSE board consists of 15 members, of which eight are non-brokers. Of the non-brokers, one will be the president, three will be independent directors and four will represent the interest of issuers, investors and other market participants not associated with any broker-dealer or PSE stockholders over the last two years.

The remaining seven members of the board of directors will be brokers proportionately representing the stockholders in terms of volume and value of trade as well as paid-up capital.

Brokers whose individually computed combined values are equal to or above P500 million are categorized as big brokers while those below P500 million are categorized as small brokers.

Over the last two years, the PSE elections have been marred by controversies on the election of non-brokers who control majority of the board and are thus crucial in the election of the PSE chair.

Last year, for instance, the opposition party pulled out of the elections due to disagreements on the choice of some non-broker candidates.

Of the four non-broker directors outside of the president and independent directors, the guidelines state that:

- two will represent the interest of issuer companies listed in the PSE and will be nominated by the association of listed companies;
- one will represent the interest of the investors, and shall have been nominated by Investment Companies Association of the Philippines, Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System or Bankers Association of the Philippines through its trust fund division or unit which manages common trust funds invested in listed equity shares, and
- the remaining one will represent the interest of other market participants, and shall have been nominated by the association of other market participants such as Investment Houses Association of the Philippines.

A nominee who is associated with a brokerage firm or who represents an institution associated with a brokerage firm will only be nominated for a broker-director position.

The nomelec said it would accept nominations until Feb. 13 and approve the list of candidates by Feb. 18.

Group urges suspension . . .

From page B1

He emphasized that while Bayan Muna was for the repeal of the Downstream Oil Deregulation Act of 1998 or of RA 8479, he was suggesting the suspension of specific taxes only as a temporary measure and a direct challenge to the government's political will.

"I refuse to buy the government's oft-repeated line that it is powerless over the oil price hikes because of the deregulation law," Ocampo added.

"On the contrary, the government can order the temporary suspension of specific taxes to bring down oil prices," he said. "It can even order a comprehensive review, or even the total repeal of the oil deregulation law which has caused so much hardship to the (public)."

Citing data from the Department of Energy's Oil Industry Management Bureau, the lawmaker said the following were the prevailing specific taxes based on pump prices: P5.35 a liter of premium gasoline; P4.35 a liter of unleaded gasoline; P4.80 a liter of regular gasoline; P0.60 a liter of kerosene; P1.63 a liter of diesel, and P0.30 a liter of fuel oil.

Bargain-hunting

From page B1

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' decision to tighten money supply by raising the reserve requirement on banks would mean that some funds would shift away from stocks to the fixed income market, Garcia said.

"But the effect (on stocks) won't be that much," Garcia said.

Many analysts agreed that the market would resume its rally this week.

Jomar Lacson, an analyst at TeamResearch, said the telecommunication stocks which dragged the index down last week—Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Globe Telecom—had hit oversold levels and could see some upward movement this week.

"If the market moves up this week, they will be the driver, but given the momentum, it looks like the index is having difficulty rising back to 1,500," Lacson said.

PLDT has yet to release its 2003 earnings report, but given Globe Telecom's results, Lacson said the stock should also report good earnings.

Lacson also said the market had anticipated the BSP's monetary tightening during its freefall following the peso's depreciation to historic lows.

"Expect the technical rebound to test the 1,480-1,500 levels over the near-term before it resumes the last leg of the correction, which could test the 1,400 levels," said Banco de Oro Universal Bank strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

Web-based Philstocks.net, on the other hand, said the market might choose to digest the rest of corporate earnings results in determining whether a further rally was justifiable.

"The earnings reports and outlooks have been fairly positive, but we believe that trading has been tentative recently, with the market wanting to give itself room to breathe after the big run it has had," Philstocks.net said.

"As the earnings season winds down, we may see the market headed for a pause. The lack of other market-moving news coupled with lingering concerns over politics and the domestic economy will dampen activity at the PSE. Political worries are likely to linger as the campaign season for the May polls gets underway on Feb. 10." it said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Public debt hit . . .

From page B5

more than doubled since 1996 when it stood at only P2.24 trillion.

Over the last 10 years, the consolidated public debt stock had increased by more than P3 trillion or 160 percent from P1.91 trillion in 1993. At that time, the country's total debt already exceeded the total output at an even higher ratio of 127.5 percent of GNP.

"Many emerging markets have difficulty in running budget surpluses needed to ensure sustainability of public debt. This is because revenues in these economies are quite low reflecting a large informal sector and significant tax exemptions," the IMF said.

The Fund said the road to a firm and lasting downtrend in public debt should be pursued with a package of reforms in tax administration as well as expenditure management that would help improve fiscal position and grow the economy.

"It is difficult to reduce public debt ratios without robust economic growth," the IMF added. In the Philippines, however, growth had been largely modest through the years.

Mired in debts, the government has to pay P271.5 billion in interest this year and P270.7 billion in principal. Last year, interest and principal payments stood at P230.7 billion and P195 billion, respectively.

Debt service as a ratio of the gross domestic product would increase this year to 11.6 percent from 9.9 percent in 2003 and 9.1 percent in 2002.

BSP poises tighter . . .

From page B1

there are voluminous foreign currency trading," Reyes said.

"Those with dollar requirements but have no documents go to the black market. If the premium in the black market persists, then it could be a signal of capital flight. There could be investors, particularly the Filipino-Chinese, who could be taking their funds out," said a currency dealer from a foreign bank.

Reyes said the BSP could also re-issue existing policies to remind banks that currency regulations were in place and should be observed.

One regulation the central bank could re-issue is the policy limiting undocumented dollar purchases to no more than $5,000. Dollar transactions above $5,000 would have to be fully documented. Reyes said the BSP would also remind banks that dollar transactions worth $10,000 would already qualify as covered transactions under the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Even the number of examiners conducting on-spot audit on banks could be doubled, according to Reyes. "From the usual 5 to 7 examiners, we could double the members of each team conducting audit on banks with high volumes of dollar transactions."

Two weeks ago, the Monetary Board instructed the BSP to slap fines and enforce administrative penalties especially on banks found repeatedly violating foreign exchange rules.

"We will suspend the foreign exchange licenses of banks incurring more than 3 violations. The most common violation is splitting and so we are very watchful," Reyes said.

Abank splits dollar purchases especially when it had no accompanying documents to circumvent a BSP order requiring it to fully document transactions worth $5,000 and above.

BSP warns of tighter . . .

From page B1

nounced a reserve hike not because of the increase in reserves but because of the signal that the central bank sent that it would take action if the situation worsens," said a treasury official from a foreign bank.

"But the specific action of raising reserves is not going to do much because it does not solve the problem of why there is shortage in dollars in the spot market, why people wanted to buy dollars and why those with dollars do not want to sell. So given this, last week's correction is only temporary," the banker added.

Guinigundo said that the impact of a reserve hike could take time. He also admitted that factors like political jitters could still pull down the local currency.

Tetangco said the reserve increase last week was a preemptive action because if the trend of a weaker peso continued, the inflation would go beyond the government's target this year. *Clarissa S. Batino*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 6, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ Bank	17.25	17.25	17	17	119,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	47.5	45.5	47	375,200
China Banking Corp	670	670	670	670	3,010
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.5	9,500
Export and Ind Bank Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	400,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26	25.5	25.5	197,200
Philippine National Bank	23.75	24	23.75	23.75	7,100
Phil Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	4,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	111	149	111	148	580
Manulife Financial Corp.	1985	1985	1985	1985	330
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	16,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1505	1505	1500	1500	1,770
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.5	23	22.5	23	75,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	950,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	850	870	845	865	202,290
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	24,195,000
Phil Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.2	0.2	0.14	0.14	70,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.34	1.38	1.34	1.38	116,000
Phil Long Dis Tel Co.	865	925	865	910	318,740
Ivantage Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	20,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	3,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18	18.75	18	18.75	370,600
Manila Electric Co. B	28.5	30.5	27.5	30	2,435,900
Petron Corp.	2.8	3	2.8	3	1,677,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	106,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	387,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	9,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	35,800
Pancake House Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	1,600,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	40,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56	55	56	282,000
San Miguel Corp. B	69	69.5	69	69.5	141,500
Universal Robina Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	68,000
Vitarich Corp	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	650,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	4,383,000
Abaitiz Equity Ventures	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	496,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.9	1.02	0.9	1.02	3,820,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	51,000,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.6	0.56	0.58	15,000,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.19	1,020,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.031	200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	21.5	22.75	21.5	22.75	665,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	200,000
Ionics Inc.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.42	421,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	24,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	330,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.29	7,340,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.75	68,600
Waterfront Phils. Inc	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	200,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	210,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	110,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.5	23	22.5	22.75	412,700
OTHERS					
FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY	405	405	405	405	1,170
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6	5.8	5.8	9,791,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.22	390,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.06	19,651,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	63,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.2	6	6.2	9,567,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	1,150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	120,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	360,000

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BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB		please call
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB "B"	60K	-
CAMP JOHN HAY	220K	-
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	400K	-
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	140K	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	170K	-
CLUB FILIPINO	140K	please call
EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"	100K	-
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"	280K	-
FILIPINAS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	300K	-
FONTANA "D"	50K	please call
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	180K	please call
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	please call	9.7M
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)	-	10.8M
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	2.3M
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	420K	375K
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	530K	-
METRO CLUB	80K	-
MIMOSA C2	270K	-
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"		220K
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	300K	-
PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	90K	-
PUNTA FUEGO	450K	-
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	-	please call
RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	-	290K
ROCKWELL CLUB	320K	280K
ROYALE TAGAYTAY	please call	-
SHERWOOD HILLS GOLF CLUB "B"	-	150K
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	-	1.1M
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	660K	-
VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB-IND.	-	190K
VALLEY GOLF CLUB	-	240K
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	7.2M	6.5M

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B"	1,250,000/1,300,000*	1,200,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	550,000
Camubang Golf Club	400,000	-
Canyon Woods	150,000	100,000
Camp John Hay	240,000	190,000
Capitol Hills	160,000	130,000
Calatagan Golf Club A/B"	70,000/Pls. Call	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,200,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	155,000
Club Filipino	Pls Call	-
Eagleridge A/B"/C"	300,000/450,000**	250,000
Eastridge A/B"	-	70,000/100,000*
Evercrest	80,000	-
Fontana D/C"/A"	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B"/C"	220,000/Y250,000**	-
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	-	8,450,000
Manila Polo	-	2,200,000
Manila Yacht Club	550,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B"	430,000/520,000*	370,000/480,000*
Metropolitan Club	100,000	-
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	-	110,000/250,000*
Mimosa Golf C2	-	170,000
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	230,000/300,000*	-
Orchard B	-	Pls. Call
Phil. Columbian	65,000	-
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
Quezon City Sports Club A	170,000	-
Riviera Golf A/B"/C"	130,000/150,000/1200,000**	100,000*
Rockwell Leisure Club	320,000	270,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C"	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Sherwoods A/B"/C"	70,000/Pls. Call*	90,000**
Sta. Elena Golf A/B"	1,300,000/1,850,000*	-
Subic Bay Yacht Club (Corp.)	150,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	340,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	660,000	-
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Valley Golf & CC	300,000	-
Valle Verde Inctv.	140,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf	Pls Call	6,300,000

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,100,000	1,250,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,150,000	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	700,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	60,000
Camp John Hay	-	220,000
Canlubang	400,000	450,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
Capitol Hills	120,000	150,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	Please Call
Celebrity Sports Club	150,000	200,000
Club Filipino	-	120,000
Eagleridge "A"	230,000	270,000
Eaglerridge "B"	250,000	280,000
Eaglendge "C"	-	400,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	180,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	190,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	200,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	250,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	10,800,000	-
Manila Golf (Individual)	9,500,000	10,500,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,300,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	350,000	430,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	550,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	400,000
Metroclub "A"	90,000	110,000
Mimosa (Individual)	-	150,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	250,000	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	170,000	250,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	-	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club	Please Call	200,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	70,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	200,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Spa & Lodge	520,000	600,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,200,000	1,500,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,350,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	180,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	300,000	340,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	750,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	250,000
Valley Golf	250,000	300,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	-

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The great brain drain

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

RECENTLY, a bishop, speaking from the pulpit of the Edsa shrine no less, cried out that life in the Philippines is so bad as to drive millions of Filipinos to seek work and a better life abroad. The good bishop was echoing the complaint that so-called civil society groups have been hurling for some time.

I disagree. Ever since man learned to walk on his hind legs, he has been on the move, to a warmer climate or to better hunting grounds, or simply to see what is on the other side of the mountain. That is the way it has been from the beginning of time and it will be this way until the end of the world.

Before World War II, Filipinos were already going abroad, mostly the US, to find work. The Ilocanos were reputedly the first migrant workers. They were mostly farmhands.

After World War II, there was a shortage of doctors and nurses in American hospitals. Filipino doctors and nurses, trained in American medicine and fluent in English, filled in the shortage. Today, there is hardly a US hospital that does not have a Pinoy doctor and nurse. Then followed other professionals—lawyers, engineers, architects, accountants, dentists, physical therapists, financial analysts, computer technicians, and so forth, all products of our excellent schools.

Now, London has also discovered the Filipino nurse. With this increased demand for more nurses, new nursing schools are opening up. Next school term, Ateneo de Naga will have the first Jesuit nursing school.

Our seamen—all 250,000 of them, trained in our nautical schools—sail the seven seas. Did you notice that the Swedish vessel that recently sank in the North Sea had a Filipino crew? Of course, the US Navy has long valued the service of Filipino seamen.

The Middle East employs millions of Filipino engineers, heavy equipment operators, mechanics, drivers, carpenters, masons, and every conceivable trade.

The Filipino migrant worker qualifies for good jobs abroad because of his training and education. One fourth of the population is in school. Adult education is hardly necessary.

Our universal educational system—from the barrio schools to the high schools, and to the colleges and universities—is unmatched in our part of the world. The insurance institutes established by the insurance industry are highly regarded in the region.

When the Filipino is abroad, he keeps his job because he works hard, some way harder than in his home country. And because of his innate good nature, he gets along quite well with just about anybody.

According to Newsweek, the Filipino migrant worker sends more dollars to his home country than any other except the Indian and the Mexican. But I have a feeling the Filipino earns the most on a per head basis. No other Southeast Asian country comes close. Officially, Filipino migrant workers send $6.5 billion a year; unofficially, they send more than twice this amount. This is new money, and pure spending money that fuels the economy much more vigorously than our export receipts.

What about the so-called brain drain? I don't buy the idea that the best brains go abroad, leaving behind the bottom of the class. I think the Filipino brain is inexhaustible.

The only downside is the temporary breakup of the family. It is not uncommon for the children to be left with the grandmother while the parents work abroad.

The Filipino migrants should not be compared to the East Germans who crashed through the Berlin wall into the West, or the North Koreans who have little to eat, or the Cubans who sail on frail boats to Florida to escape Fidel Castro's harsh regime.

Our migrant workers, working in freedom, are our collective extended family abroad. The whole world is beginning to take notice that there is such a race as the Filipino. We should all be proud of our migrant workers.

MWSS favors BNP Paribas loan offer

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System is inclined to accept the $220-million loan offer of BNP Paribas, saying it was the best among those submitted by 29 foreign and local accredited banks and financing firms.

However, MWSS Deputy Administrator Macra Cruz said the BNP Paribas offer had to be endorsed to the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for further evaluation and approval.

Those that submitted offers included JP Morgan Chase, Citibank N.A. and Deutsche Bank.

Cruz said the MWSS would seek the backing of the national government, through the Department of Finance, on this borrowing.

The amount will be used to finance the obligations that water concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. failed to settle and to develop new water sources.

The MWSS last year borrowed close to P10 billion to pay for the obligations of Maynilad, which should have been paid through concession fees.

Maynilad was unable to pay its concession fee obligations to MWSS since March 2001 due to a serious cash flow problem.

Also, MWSS intends to use portion of the loan to finance the technical and initial construction works of new water sources such as the Wawa Dam Project in Rizal, and the repair of an aqueduct linking the Umiray and Angat dams.

"We need to repair aqueduct 6. To avoid disrupting the supply of water to Metro Manila, we need to construct a temporary re-routing pipe. For this we need about P1 billion," Cruz told the INQUIRER.

For the new water source, the Wawa Dam project is expected to augment the water supply to Metro Manila residents in the medium term. Other projects that need feasible studies include the Laiban Dam Project.

In a related development, the Asian Development Bank has committed to extend more financing to the water sector this year.

ADB president Tadao Chino said in his report that over $15 billion or about 19 percent of its total lending was invested in water sector projects and that the ADB was willing to extend more to the country this year.

The ADB has already poured into local water projects $280 million in terms of technical assistance for the research on and preparation for these projects.

MindanaWorld

From page B2

strictly a debacle or a failure. I view it as the Philippines' maturity into the world of global trade, wherein we are not just pushed around, but entering into the fray of globalization on our own terms. It means that the country is gradually becoming adept at negotiations and dispute settlement.

Second is the result of the Doha meeting is that the Philippines—under instructions from the President, together with other developing countries—insisted that, as part of the agenda, the next round must be a developmental round, according to former DTI Secretary Mar Roxas. This means trade in the interest of development, and not just trade liberalization for its own sake.

This is a welcome development, especially after the realization that the unabated opening up of the economy in the past created dislocations for a lot of producers.

Third is its implications for the agricultural sector. And being an agricultural sub-economy, Mindanao is largely concerned. The Doha Round's talks on agriculture have a large impact on Mindanao.

The first implication for us is on export subsidies. This is an issue for us because our own farmers and our own country cannot compete with other countries that have money to subsidize their exports.

Next, in domestic price support, developed countries help their own farmers by supporting the price of their products in their own country, thereby, allowing their farmers to "dump" their excess products to developing markets since they have already profited from the domestic price support in their own country.

The third concern is market access. An example is our ongoing effort to have our fresh fruits gain entry into foreign markets.

These concerns are crucial for Mindanao because we are the principal exporters of these products.

(Joji Ilagan Bian is a Mindanao business leader and former chair of the Mindanao Business Council)

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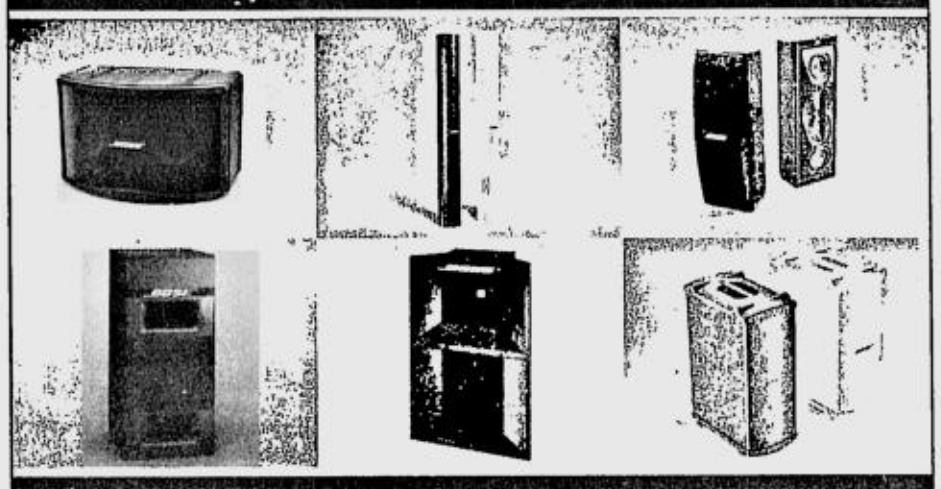

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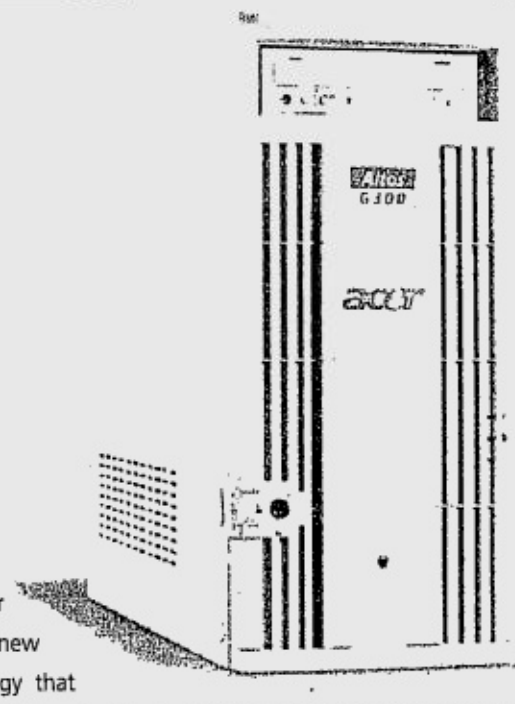

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BAP calls for inclusion of tax assets in capital

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANKERS Association of the Philippines has requested the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to allow banks to include deferred tax assets in the computation of their capital.

Banks currently set aside 32 percent of loan loss provisions as DTA, which is then deducted from the banks' taxable income for the following year.

The BSP, however, does not include this amount in computing the banks' capital.

In a recent press briefing, BAP president Cesar Virata said that since the Philippines would adopt a new International Accounting Standard next year, the BSP must change the accounting treatment of these assets worth roughly P130 billion.

Under the new standard, deferred tax assets would not be recognized unless these are used.

"For example, in the case of Japanese banks, for so many years they have not been able to use their deferred tax assets because they continue to incur losses. Under the new rule, the auditors and management will not be allowed to book a deferred tax asset unless there is a calculation it can be used in the future," Virata said.

The BSP estimates that banks have an average of P2 billion to P3 billion in DTA as the banks set aside funds to cover for possible losses from bad loans.

The total loan loss reserves of the commercial banking system currently stands at P126.946 billion.

"What the central bank does now is deduct totally. We said it shouldn't be that way because we can make use of the DTA and it is unfair because it is recognized by the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) and yet the BSP does not recognize it," Virata said.

GRAND ASIA CAPITAL

San Miguel keen on acquiring cash-strapped investment firm

By Michelle V. Remo

THE CASH-STRAPPED Grand Asia Capital Corp. has renewed its license to operate as an investment house, paving the way for its reported sale to food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.

According to Jose Aquino, director for market regulation of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Grand Asia asked the SEC to renew its license so that it could sell its business to a prospective buyer from the food industry.

Aquino refused to reveal the identity of the buying company, but a source privy to the transaction confirmed that San Miguel was interested in acquiring Grand Asia.

Grand Asia was incorporated in June 1995 and was registered with the SEC to operate as an investment house.

It surrendered its license to operate in August 2001 following its failure to meet the SEC's minimum capital requirement of P300 million.

San Miguel Corp. is on an acquisition binge with the investment house as its latest target.

The source said Grand Asia moved to immediately renew its license after it got word that San Miguel was keen on acquiring the company.

This development dims hopes of Keppel IVI Investments Inc. to sell its business to San Miguel, the source added.

Keppel IVI, which is registered as an investment house, ceased operations in 2001 due to financial difficulties.

Lowly 'ube' saves a dying 'hopia' business in Binondo

By Fran D. Katigbak

WHEN Gerry Chua inherited his family's hopia business almost two decades ago, he was left holding a recipe for making very tough hopia and a bakery beset with financial problems.

"As many as eight checks issued by my father (to suppliers and creditors) would bounce on any given day. That's how bad business was doing," admits Chua in Filipino.

The problem lies in the product which, Chua says, was so tough that the hopia would retain its shape even if it was thrown against a wall.

Chua's family also had to face stiff competition from the so-called hopiang hapon.

Despite these challenges, however, the family continued to sell the product even if there were days when they would fail to sell a single one.

It was only during the Chinese New Year celebrations when the Chuas would make a decent profit. Thus, they had to live on a very tight budget to make ends meet.

Realizing that he could not expect help or depend on others, Chua turned his attention on improving the hopia's flavor and texture as soon as he took over the business.

SUCCESS STORY

He hit a gold mine when he produced ube-flavored hopia.

"I went to the nearby supermarket and asked which ice cream (flavor) is the best-seller. They told me it was Magnolia's ube ice cream. That's where I got the idea to make ube hopia," relates Chua.

The 42-year-old proprietor, however, doesn't credit himself alone for the success of the soft, ube-flavored hopia. "It became a hit with the help of Cory Quirino who featured the delicacy in her program, 'Cityline,' on ABS-CBN," he says.

When the improved hopia drew hoards of customers, so did Chua's shop at Ongpin Street, Binondo, now known as the Eng Bee Tin (Ever Beauty Precious) Chinese Deli.

In the years that followed, Eng Bee Tin saw its sales grow from zero to 50, to approximately 5,000 hopia packs a day, reaching double or triple that figure during peak seasons.

CHUA: Our delicacies have become trendsetters JOHNNY VILLENA

Following the success of the ube hobia, Chua introduced more hopia flavors like pandan, red monggo, monggo, baboy and piña.

The store's shelves also display a wide selection of Chinese delicacies, mostly Chua's own recipes, such as flavored tikoy, tikoy rolls, radish cake, mooncake and ampaw (glutinous peanut balls).

Competition was no longer intimidating because "our delicacies have become the trend, to be copied in vain by others," says Chua.

Five more Eng Bee Tin branches have been built—Nueva Street, Binondo; Quintin Paredes Street, Binondo; Libertad, Pasay; T.M. Kalaw and San Juan. Its goods are likewise exported to the United States, Canada, London, Australia, Hong Kong and Korea through more than 80 dealers.

Asked what attracts people to return to his Chinese deli, Chua cites quality, cleanliness and affordability of his products.

He says making delicious products and maintaining quality are the most effective ways for any food outlet to increase its patrons.

Chua, for instance, refuses to substitute ingredients to preserve the flavor and quality of his delicacies.

Perhaps noteworthy in the growth of Eng Bee Tin is that Chua, the third-generation owner, keeps his creative juices running in managing both the deli and the kitchen.

His duties as barangay chair, vice president of the Association of Philippine Volunteer Fire Brigades Inc., and president of the East Binondo and Paco fire brigades also do not prevent him from throwing on an apron when he conducts his baking experiments.

Thrice a week Chua visits the Hopia King, Eng Bee Tin's factory, to mix the hopia ingredients. He travels abroad to study and search for innovations that can enhance his products, and every two months he visits Hopia King with a baking technician to check the condition of the factory equipment.

And unlike some businessmen with little or no concern for the community, Chua uses his success to give back to the community where his enterprise flourished.

A firefighter and an ambulance operator, Chua not only responds to fire emergencies but contributes all profits from Café Mezzanine, another food business he inherited, and a portion of Eng Bee Tin's earnings to build fire trucks, ambulances and finance the needs of two fire stations in Metro Manila and its volunteer fire fighters.

The violet firetrucks, the color symbolic of the ube hopia, parked in front of the Ongpin deli are trademarks of Chua's hard work both in managing Eng Bee Tin and in being part of a volunteer firefighters' association.

All that from a man and his purple hopia.

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DOTC ready to resume stalled air talks with US

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications awaits word from the United States air panel on the resumption of air talks between the two countries.

Transportation Secretary and concurrent Philippine air panel chair Leandro Mendoza said in an interview that the country's air rights negotiators were ready to sit down with their US counterparts.

"It's up to the US to decide when we'll hold the talks. We are ready to meet with them," he told reporters.

He related that the DOTC submitted a position paper to air panel vice chair Department of Foreign Affairs, citing points that the countries could discuss during the renegotiation of their air transport agreement (ATA).

Negotiations with the US bogged down in July last year due to the Philippine panel's decision not to give US cargo carriers seventh freedom rights.

Seventh freedom refers to the right to carry traffic between two foreign countries with no connection to the home country.

With this right, American carriers will be no different from local carriers.

Under the Constitution, an airline is considered a public utility, thus, must be at least 60-percent Filipino-owned.

Mendoza, however, said the position paper that the DOTC submitted to the DFA did not touch on seventh freedom at all, mainly because of Constitutional restrictions.

He said what the Philippine panel would want to discuss with the US negotiators dealt more with reciprocity on both the passenger and cargo aspects of air transport, particularly with regard to open skies.

"Our domestic carriers have requested that they not be limited to just five pick-up points. They're asking for additional pick-up points like Guam and Honolulu," he explained.

Under the two countries' 1982 ATA, Philippine carriers are allowed to pick up passengers from five points beyond the US, but these were described as low-traffic South American countries.

Mango exporters ask government for help to pay quarantine fees

By Christine A. Gaylican

PHILIPPINE mango exporters are now reluctant to bring their goods to the United States due to the failure of the Department of Agriculture to help them pay the quarantine fees.

"The Agriculture Department did not fulfill what was agreed upon—that they would share the financial burden of paying US quarantine inspectors something like $110,000," Mango Product Exporters Confederation Inc. president Roberto C. Amores told the INQUIRER in an interview.

The Philippines was allowed to export its carabao mangoes to the US mainland in mid-2002, but exports were hampered by stringent quarantine requirements and substantial fees.

Mango exporters were only able to ship 220 metric tons of mangoes to the US.

Amores said exporters would be able to increase exports if the government provided financial assistance to help them penetrate the potentially large US market.

Before Philippine mango exports could enter the United States and Australia, the fruits have to go through vapor heat treatment.

The US and Australian governments also limited the government's mango exports to those from the Visayan island of Guimaras.

These stringent requirements curtail the potential earnings of the exporters as Guimaras produces mangoes only from March to May.

Fresh mango exporters include Marsman Drysdale, Dole Asia Ltd., Diamond Star Agro Products Inc. and Amores' Hi-Las Marketing Corp.

In a separate interview, the Department of Agriculture's Marketing Assistance Service Director Salvador Salacup said the DA would provide some P1.5 million for the mango exporters to pay the US quarantine fees this year.

"It is too late the offer... The USDA is requiring that we pay 50 percent of the $110,000," said Amores.

In 2003, Philippine fresh mango exports to the world grew by 20 percent which translates to some $90 million in export earnings.

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US dismayed over increases in RP tariffs

By Michelle V. Remo

THE UNITED States has expressed disappointment over the Philippines' decision to raise tariffs on certain products, saying the move was against the modern principle of liberalization.

Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Purisima said US Assistant Secretary of Commerce William Lash had questioned the tariff increases in a recent meeting.

Purisima said the US government thought the move was a step backward in the fulfillment of the country's commitments to free and multilateral trade.

"Liberalization does not only help (in the entry of) US products into the country, but also in promoting efficiency to make a country more competitive," Lash said in an earlier press briefing.

In a separate briefing, Purisima said the move to raise tariffs was not an indication that the Philippines was backing out of its commitments to the World Trade Organization. He said it was just to correct the mistake of having brought down tariffs to very low levels and in very short a time.

Purisima stressed that despite the move to raise tariffs, the Philippines still has among the lowest tariff levels in Southeast Asia.

He also said the move would affect only a small portion—or a measly $80 million—of the total amount of US exports to the Philippines.

Malacañang recently ordered an adjustment in the country's tariffs on imports from Most Favored Nations (MFN), or countries outside the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The move was in response to petitions from several industries that had complained about the country's low tariff environment. Prior to the raising of tariffs, the Philippines' average MFN tariff stood at only 5 percent, or significantly lower than the 26 percent allowed by the World Trade Organization.

The country's low tariff rates were often blamed for inability of some firms to cope with competition and for factory closures. With the much lower tariffs, imports easily entered the Philippines, while its exports had a harder time penetrating foreign markets.

"We still believe in opening up our markets. We just want to make sure, however, that our industries are prepared before they face the impact of full liberalization," said Purisima.

For his part, Lash said raising tariffs was not a way to help industries become competitive. The US official said making industries artificially competitive—such as through tariff protection—was, on the contrary, adversely affecting their efficiency.

It may be recalled, however, that last year's WTO round of talks bogged down partly due to the refusal of developed countries—such as the United States—to eliminate government subsidies on agriculture.

The granting of subsidies, which is a form of unfair trade practice, makes an industry artificially competitive.

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Next Mobile introduces prepaid service

IN A bid to win back the subscribers it lost to cellular phone companies, digital trunk radio operator Next Mobile Inc. has jumped on the prepaid service bandwagon.

The company recently launched IMX Prepaid, a service that allowed Next Mobile subscribers to use digital trunk radio services, including calls to mobile phones and landlines.

Next Mobile prepaid business and external marketing director Erwin Roceles said in a statement that the new service was also designed to lure back the around 30,000 subscribers the company lost to mobile phone firms.

He explained that by simply buying a prepaid activation pack worth P550, an existing and even a former Next Mobile subscriber with an iDEN (integrated digital enhanced network)-capable handset could again gain access to digital trunk radio services.

The activation pack includes P300 worth of airtime that can be used for dispatch, or walkie-talkie calls, mobile phone calls and landline calls. A P1,000 activation pack is also available. This contains P750 worth of prepaid airtime.

IMX Prepaid is available in two variants: per-day dispatch and per-call dispatch.

For the per-day service type, users are charged a flat rate for all dispatch calls made within a day. This is ideal for heavy users of the radio function of the Next Mobile handsets as they can have unlimited use of the dispatch service without incurring additional charges for excess usage.

The per-call service type, on the other hand, charges users for every dispatch call or call alert they initiate. *Abigail L. Ho*

GOINGS ON

Inquiry service via text

INSULAR Life, the largest Filipino life insurance company, recently launched the enhanced Hello Insular Text Inquiry Service.

Considered the first of its kind in the local insurance industry, Hello Insular was first launched in 2002 to promote Insular Life's products and create more awareness of the benefits of life insurance through the mobile phone. With the enhanced Hello Insular Text Inquiry service, more information and service assistance may be given, including premium quotations for all regular plans.

To download information, 'texters' can send a Hello Insular text message followed by specific keywords to 2333 (for Globe and Touch Mobile) and 211 (for Smart and Talk n' Text).

The service, powered by myAyala.com, will run until Jan. 2005. For more information, you may get in touch with the Market Research and Product Management Staff at 771-1818 ext. 1313-1324.

Coffee Club farm tour

FIGARO Coffee Company held on Saturday its 6th farm tour that took participants to the coffee-producing towns of Amadeo and Tagaytay.

Dubbed "Going Organic," the farm tour shed light on the production of "socially conscious" coffee. The first leg of the trip included a visit to Figaro's Barako pilot farm and organic pilot farm in Amadeo, Cavite.

The farm tour showed Figaro's continuing effort to adapt to the changing needs and tastes of consumers and the environment.

The annual tour aims to orient participants on how coffee is grown and made, and how it supports the people who grow the crop.

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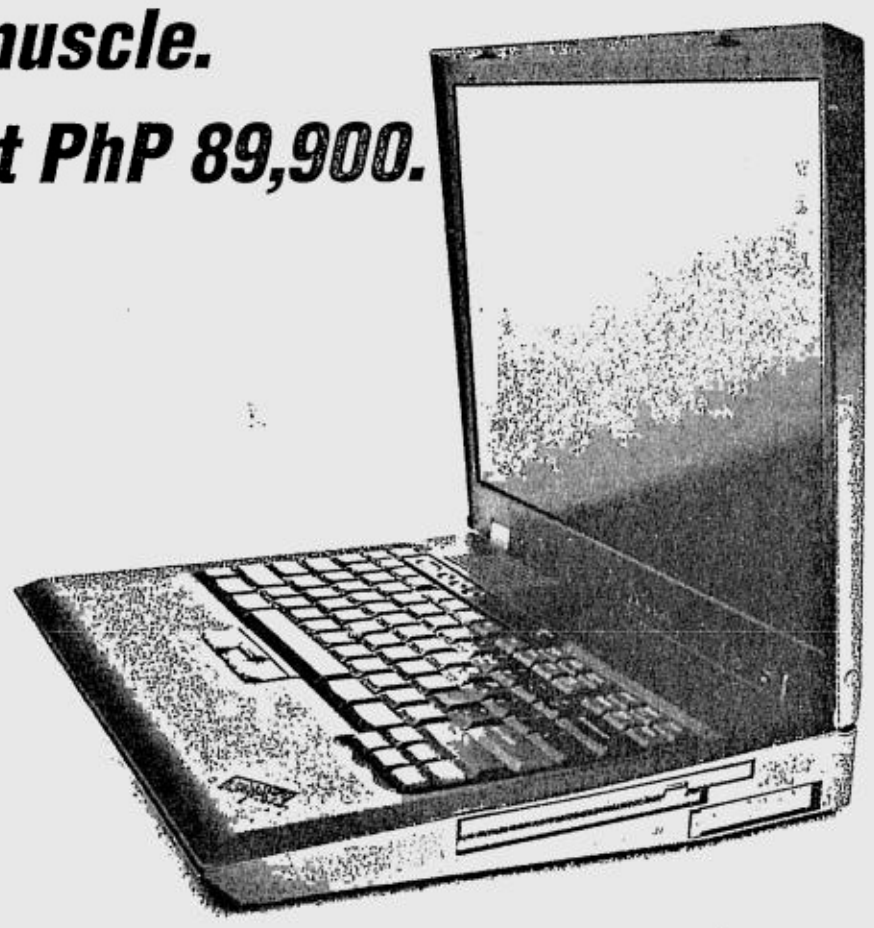

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ON **OCTOBER 6, 1997**, THE OMBUDSMAN FOUND SUFFICIENT PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE TO INDICT LIMLINGAN FOR VIOLATION OF SECTION 3(e) OF REPUBLIC ACT (RA) 3019, AS AMENDED, OR THE ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON VICTOR S. LIMLINGAN

On January 12, 2004, full-page ads appeared in the Inquirer and the Philippine Star that attacked Professor Victor Limlingan of the Asian Institute of Management and former Director of the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), as a traitor to our country. While purportedly placed by several labor organizations banding together under the name of "Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Manggagawang Pilipino", the ad carried no signatories. On January 21, one of the supposed authors of the ad, the Confederation of Filipino Workers, wrote the Inquirer to deny any participation in the paid advertisement or the accusations against Prof. Limlingan.

The ads are deplorable, but these are not isolated instances. These are part of a long series of smear stories and cowardly attacks in the media that are designed to intimidate and besmirch the good name of public servants and citizen reformers who advocate sound public policy in our country. In the case of Prof. Limlingan, the campaign of vilification has been especially virulent because he has been a leading figure in the reform of Philippine aviation policy. As professor at AIM, he laid the compelling case for aviation liberalization as an essential requisite for economic modernization. As a member of the Civil Aeronautics Board during the term of President Fidel V. Ramos, he helped to craft and implement Executive Order 219, which mandates the liberalization of aviation policy and defines the national interest as consisting of the larger interest of the country, especially the users of air services.

Far from being a traitor, Professor Limlingan has performed invaluable service to our people and our country through the laudable reforms that he has championed and the many benefits conferred on providers and users of air services. Among these are:

- the deregulation of domestic aviation, which enabled the public to enjoy more flights and lower air fares, and more regions of the country to have regular air services;
- the liberalization of air cargo services in the country, which has proved to be a boon to Philippine exporters and the country's trade with the world;
- the activation of the Mactan International Airport as an international gateway, which has resulted in an increase in international passengers arriving and leaving directly from Cebu;
- the signing of air agreements, which allowed more foreign carriers such as Cathay Pacific Airways, Singapore Airlines, Korean Airlines, and Asiana, to fly in and out of the country, thus benefiting tourism, trade and investments; and
- the specific expansion of air services to the destinations of Filipino OFWs in Asia and the Middle East.

For working for these reforms, Professor Limlingan has been vilified in countless attacks in the media and even faced charges filed by PAL before the Ombudsman and Sandiganbayan. None of these tactics of intimidation have succeeded. The administrative case against him was dropped by the Ombudsman. It is one more lie of his detractors to say that he has been barred for life from holding any public office.

In the face of these attacks on his person and his good name, we the undersigned stand with Professor Limlingan in his fight for sound aviation policy in our country. We deplore the tactics of his detractors as foul and craven and we urge him to continue the good work!

SIGNATORIES

Felipe Medalla
Former NEDA Director General (1998-2000)
Chairman, Foundation for Economic Freedom

Jesus B. Garcia, Jr.
Former Secretary
Department of Transportation and Communications
Chairman, Civil Aeronautics Board (1992-1995)

Paul Dominguez
Presidential Assistant for Mindanao (1992-1997)

Francisco Ilusorio
Chairman, Maxingdugni

Walter Sulton
Chief Convenor
WOW Tourism Volunteers Foundation, Inc.

Rodolfo Severino
Former ASEAN Secretary General (1998-2002)
Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs (1992-1997)

Federico Macaranas
Dean, Center for Development Management,
Asian Institute of Management
Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs (1992-1998)

Filomeno Sta. Ana III
Action for Economic Reform

Jose R Pejito
President, National Association of Consumers, Inc.

Dan Songco
pagbalago@pilipinas

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Resolution
OMB-0-97-1388

WHEREFORE, premises considered, and finding sufficient prima facie evidence, it is hereby recommended that respondent Victor S.Limlingan be indicted for violation of Section 3(e) of R.A. 3019, as amended.

SO RESOLVED.

Manila, Philippines, October 6, 1997.

ATTY. WILFRED L. BASCASIO
Graft Investigation Officer II

RECOMMENDING APPROVAL:

ANGEL C. MAYORALGO, JR.
Director, EPIB

REVIEWED BY:

ABELARDO L. APORTADERA, JR.
Assistant Ombudsman, EIO

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED:

ANIANO A. DESIERTO
Ombudsman

PART OF OMBUDSMAN CASE NO. OMB-0-97-1388 READ: " . . . WE FIND RESPONDENT'S ACTS IN THIS INSTANT COMPLAINT TO BE SMUDGED WITH EVIDENT BAD FAITH, MANIFEST PARTIALITY OR GROSS INEXCUSABLE NEGLIGENCE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF SECTION 3(e) OF R.A. 3019, THEREBY CAUSING UNDUE DAMAGE TO THE PHILIPPINE AIRLINES IN THE AMOUNT OF ABOUT US$4.5 MILLION, MORE OR LESS."

TO AVOID ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AS A RESULT OF THE OMBUDSMAN'S DECISION WHICH FOUND HIM CRIMINALLY LIABLE, LIMLINGAN JUMPED THE GUN ON THE OMBUDSMAN — WHICH WAS LIKEWISE CONSIDERING THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECT OF THE CASE — AND SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION TO THE PRESIDENT AS BOARD MEMBER OF THE CAB IN A LETTER DATED **DECEMBER 15, 1997**.

WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT AN OMBUDSMAN RESOLUTION DATED **APRIL 30, 1998** WAS ISSUED RECOMMENDING DISMISSAL OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST LIMLINGAN AFTER HIS SUPPOSED RESIGNATION, THIS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY OVERTURNED.

Republika ng Pilipinas
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

MEMORANDUM:

FOR: HONORABLE ANIANO A. DESIERTO, Ombudsman

THRU: DIRECTOR NAPOLEON S. BALDRIAS, Chief Legal Counsel

FROM: PAUL ELMER M. CLEMENTE, Legal Counsel

SUBJECT: OMB-ADM-0-97-0519 entitled "PHILIPPINE AIR LINES -versus- VICTOR S. LIMLINGAN"

DATE: 25 June 1998

With "the premise that it is not definitely established that respondent is no longer in permanent service", the Resolution dated 30 April 1998 of the Administrative Adjudication Bureau (AAB) is the subject of this review on instructions of the Honorable Ombudsman per his memorandum dated 19 June 1998. Said AAB Resolution recommended the dismissal of the above-entitled case for having been rendered moot and inoperative on account of respondent's resignation.

At the outset, it may be noted that in a letter dated 15 December 1997, respondent submitted his resignation to the President as Board Member of the Civil Aeronautics Board representing the private sector (*p. 50, Records*). It does not appear, however, that the Chief Executive accepted this. Further, a certain CAB records officer certified that respondent's "last appointment to the CAB as a Board Member was on 04 November 1997" and is no longer connected with CAB "on account of his resignation" (*p. 54, Records*). Considering that the records officer would only be competent to attest on CAB records, it may be reasonably construed that, a certain contrario, the same officer would be incompetent to testify on other matters, like whether or not respondent is still connected with CAB. Even so, the records do not show respondent's cessation or complete severance from government service. Thus, the review on the merits of the instant case.

[illegible] considered until the Philippine panel of final approval from the CAB or confirmation by the Office of the President. On the other hand, respondent disputes this, citing the ground that he was merely implementing paragraph three of the supplemental Consolidated Memorandum of Understanding (CMU) dated 15 July 1994, which was concluded under the Air Transport Agreement dated 11 July 1974 between the Philippines and Singapore.

THE OMBUDSMAN, IN A MEMORANDUM DATED **JUNE 25, 1998,** STATED THAT AS OF SAID DATE (JUNE 25, 1998), "THE RECORDS DO NOT SHOW RESPONDENT'S (LIMLINGAN'S) CESSATION OR COMPLETE SEVERANCE FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE. THUS, THE REVIEW ON THE MERITS OF THE INSTANT CASE."

AFTER REVIEWING THE CASE, THE OMBUDSMAN'S MEMORANDUM EXPLICITLY RECOMMENDED THE DISMISSAL OF LIMLINGAN FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE FOR GRAVE MISCONDUCT AND THE CANCELLATION OF ELIGIBILITY, FORFEITURE OF BENEFITS AND **DISQUALIFICATION FOR REEMPLOYMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE.**

NOW YOU KNOW HOW YOU WERE FOOLED. THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE AD HID THE REAL FACTS FROM YOU!

Page 3
OMB-ADM-0-97-0519

[illegible] resolutions as opposed. Such non-compliance with a duly issued administrative regulation and the CAB's charter, it is submitted, likewise constitutes misconduct.

Designating the corporate powers of the CAB and the legal consequences of unlawful opposition are issues in which various opinions, combined together, would logically and legally qualify respondent's [illegible]

WITH the premise the respondent is still with the government service, it is respectfully recommended that the penalty of dismissal from service be meted against him for grave misconduct, together with its accessory penalties (under Sec. 9, Rule XIV of the Omnibus Rules Implementing Book V of Executive Order No. 292 and Other Pertinent Civil Service Laws) of cancellation of eligibility, forfeiture of benefits and disqualification for reemployment in the government service.

Respectfully submitted by:
PAUL ELMER M. CLEMENTE
Legal Counsel

RECOMMENDING APPROVAL:
NAPOLEON S. BALDRIAS
Chief Legal Counsel

APPROVED / DISAPPROVED:
ANIANO A. DESIERTO
Ombudsman

THE OMBUDSMAN FOUND LIMLINGAN CRIMINALLY LIABLE FOR VIOLATION OF THE ANTI-GRAFT LAW. AS FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECT OF THE CASE, THE LATEST OMBUDSMAN RULING RECOMMENDED HIS DISMISSAL FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND BARRED HIM FROM HOLDING ANY GOVERNMENT POST. THESE FACTS ARE BASED ON OMBUDSMAN DOCUMENTS.

WE JUST PRAY THAT NEXT TIME YOU WON'T LEND YOUR NAMES TO PROPAGATE A LIE AND MISLEAD THE PUBLIC.

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Europe presses for market-soothing G7 statement

BOCA RATON, Fla.—Europe's finance chiefs will urge Group of Seven counterparts at a meeting this weekend to warn markets against violent currency swings, hoping to keep a sliding US dollar from crippling euro zone exporters.

While the Florida meeting was not expected to yield a deal on the dollar, European ministers said the G7 should use Saturday's post-meeting communique to clarify its currency position and soothe foreign exchange markets. Japan also said it would discuss currency stability at the meeting.

"Europe will say that given the circumstances ... a further appreciation of the euro would constitute a problem. Excessive movements create worries," said a G7 government source, who declined to be identified.

Bank of Japan Governor Toshihiko Fukui echoed this.

"With economies around the world growing strongly, foreign exchange rates try to reflect the problems around the world—in other words, where the imbalances are," he said. "But in doing so, markets do overreact at times."

The dollar's two-year slide of some 20 percent against the euro accelerated after a September meeting in Dubai when the G7 called for more flexible currency policies—an apparent dig at Asian countries for keeping their currencies low through intervention or currency pegs. European governments have since complained that statement was misinterpreted.

But phrasing a joint statement this time is proving tricky, with the United States happy with the boost a weaker dollar gives its own exporters—especially in an election year—and apparently unfazed by the pain it may cause elsewhere.

G7 sources said the communique's wording was still up in the air late on Friday and would not be finalized until Saturday. Ministers said central bankers would be closely involved in this process.

Convinced huge US budget and trade gaps are driving the dollar lower, European ministers said they want US action.

"The US says that to reduce the US imbalance there must be more growth in the rest of the world. We say yes but this in itself won't reduce the US imbalance," the G7 source said.

Following a bilateral meeting with German Finance Minister Hans Eichel, US Treasury Secretary John Snow repeated his vow to halve the record US budget deficit within five years.

Snow is hosting finance chiefs from Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada along with top officials from the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund, among others, at a plush nearly 80-year-old Florida resort.

The world's most exclusive economic club has been famed for periodic deals over the past 20 years to intervene collectively to halt extreme movements in the world's major currencies. *Reuters*

US stocks could slip as earnings taper off

NEW YORK—Stocks could drift lower this week, as earnings season winds down and investors search for fresh catalysts to drive the market higher after a buying spree over the past 11 months.

This week will bring another slew of earnings reports from corporate America, and though profit growth has been strong in the last quarter, Wall Street has been increasingly impervious to the good news.

Major market indexes have slipped over the past two weeks even after companies delivered robust results, as investors cashed in gains from a stock rally that began last March.

"Our sense is that the market continues to consolidate.

Investors had high expectations for fourth-quarter announcements, and generally they've been met," said Frederic H. Dickson, senior vice president at brokerage D.A. Davidson & Co. in Portland, Oregon.

As of Friday, roughly 80 percent of Standard & Poor's 500 companies reported quarterly results, said Ozan Akcin, chief market strategist at Puglisi & Co. in New York.

Companies reporting so far have reported year-over-year earnings growth of about 22 percent, Akcin said.

On average, last quarter's results beat Wall Street's average estimates by about 5 percent—above a historical rate of roughly 3 percent.

Despite the strong improvement in earnings, investors are still reeling from last week's comments from the Federal Reserve, which hinted it might be closer to an interest-rate hike sooner than most Wall Streeters were expecting, Akcin said. *Reuters*

US job growth in January below expectations

WASHINGTON—The US economy created 112,000 new jobs in January, far fewer than expected, government data showed on Friday in a disappointing report that will likely weigh on President George W. Bush's reelection campaign.

The report showed hiring remains weak 26 months after the economy climbed out of recession, even though January's gain was the fifth straight monthly increase in payrolls outside the farming sector and the largest rise since December 2000.

"The payrolls number was well below market expectations and confirms the jobs market in the US is weak," said Daniel Tenengauzer, vice president for foreign exchange at Lehman Brothers.

Analysts had been expecting the economy, which has been showing strength in areas outside the jobs market, to add 150,000 new jobs in January after an originally reported gain of only 1,000 the previous month. The Labor Department revised the December figure to an increase of 16,000.

The report reinforces expectations that the Federal Reserve will leave interest rates at a 1958 low of 1 percent.

Eonomists say the United States needs to add 150,000 jobs a month just to keep pace with growth in the labor force and to keep the unemployment rate steady. Since September, only 366,000 jobs have been added, or just over 70,000 a month.

"This is the weakest job creation rate relative to economic growth on record," said Steven Wood, an economist at Insight Economics. *Reuters*

Another Asian free trade pact nears agreement

PHUKET, Thailand—An Asian free-trade zone aimed ultimately at encompassing nearly two billion people moved a step closer finalization on Saturday as seven nations met to work out the final details.

Five nations—Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand—were due to approve a deal to create a free-trade zone by 2017.

Trade ministers were putting the final touches to a pact which proposes the five countries start cutting import taxes on traded items in mid-2006.

Under the pact—to be signed on Sunday—India, Sri Lanka and Thailand plan to charge no tariffs on goods and services trade between them by July 2012. *Reuters*

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- Taytay Off Ortigas Ave Ext. Bounded by N. Pascual/ F.Cruz/Sampaguita Sts. Vacant 2679 sqm.
- Antipolo Marcos Hi-way Vacant 360 sqm nr. Masinag Mart

CAVITE
- Imus Aguinaldo Hi-way Vacant 36011 sqm Front 104M
- Dasmariñas Aguinaldo Hi-way Vacant 5549 sqm Front 20M
- Gen. Trias Provincial Rd. Vacant 44094 sqm Front 66M Nr. Gateway Business Park

LAGUNA
- Canlubang Industrial Park 10 Has w/ structures 1 Ha.
- Calamba Municipal Road 20 Ha. Near Carmel Subd.
- Cabuyao Nat'l Hi-way 84092 sqm w/ factory/whse bldgs. 3 Ha. Deep-well, Fully Paved Option To Lease P2M Monthly; Pioneer Rd. Off Provincial Hi-way Vacant 47715 sqm Nr. Corn Breeding Stn.
- Alaminos Nat'l Hi-way Vacant 6349 sqm R-O-W 7.60M Front 64M Nr. Public Market

BATANGAS
- Nasugbu Talibeach Vacant 1458 sqm; Poblacion Alvarez St. 20080 sqm Nr. Public Market
- Talisay Nat'l Hi-way Vacant 3432 sqm Nr. View Park Rest.
- Lipa City Prov. Rd to Padre Garcia 12 Has R. O. W. 12M Front 79M 2KM Fr. Cathedral/Comm. Center
- Tanauan Off Nat'l Hi-way Farm 3 Has Front 83M
- Lian Matabungkay Magyaya St. Beach Zone 3604 sqm Front 100M

CAMARINES SUR
- Naga City, Concepcion Grande Nat'l Hi-way 5457 sqm Front 40M Nr. Coca Cola Plant

BULACAN
- San Jose del Monte Sto. Cristo Northridge Prime Estate 4 lots Residential 240/288/372/384 sqm

BAGUIO CITY
- Brent Road 562 sqm w/ residence furnished, Nr. Pink Sisters

BENGUET
- Tuba Private Rd Off Sto. Tomas 6 Has Vacant

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PANGASINAN
- Villasis Provincial Road Vacant 35982 sqm Nr. DENR

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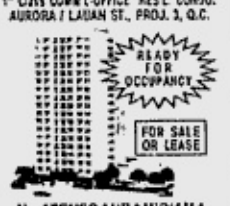

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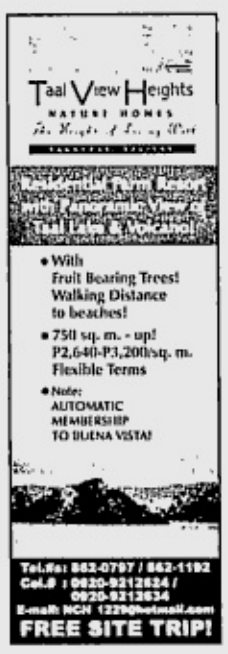

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S2 Lic. # 17316N99 of Dra. Marie Josephine M. Lim issued by DOB was lost last Jan 2003.
(PDI-Jan.26,Feb.2&9,2004)

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— 2 Corinthians 5:8

SIR KNIGHT FERNANDO M. HIZON

4th Degree Knights of Columbus of Maharlika Assembly, Quezon City
Born May 30, 1914 in Apalit, Pampanga

has peacefully joined his Creator on February 5, 2004.

His beloved wife **Aquilina**; children **Jose, Maria Theresa, RoseMarie,** and **Mary Bernadette**; children-in-law **Nora, Jesse, Joey,** and **Edelito**; grandchildren **Jennifer, Joseph, Jeffrey, Mary Tiffany, Juno, Darryn, Christine,** and **Bryce**, and great-grandchild **Leanna** along with sisters **Estrella, Flora,** and **Perla**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Funeral Mass will be held at St. Francis Xavier Church, Burbank, California and interment will be on February 9, 2004 at San Francisco Mission Cemetery, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California.

The sleep of the seven lights be thine, beloved;
The sleep of the seven joys be thine, beloved;
The sleep of the seven slumbers be thine, beloved
On the arms of the Jesus of blessings, the Christ of grace.
-- Anon.

LUIS NOCHE UMALI

of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro and Quezon City
Born February 27, 1916

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 7, 2004.

His loving wife **Vilma**; sister **Mother Jacinta** of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, o.c.d.; children **Hermelinda, Roberto, Lorenza, Violeda, Dolores, Luisa & Gloria**; sons-in-law **Nestor Javelosa, Bong Abarca & Mike Bonifacio**; daughter-in-law **Daisy**; grandchildren **Mark, Paolo, Regina, Alejandro, Antonio, Angelo, Alonzo, Angelina, Larisa, Neil, Nathaniel, Francesca, Ramon & Isabella**; relatives and friends request for prayers for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Main Chapel of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway, Quezon City. Necrological rites will be held on February 10, 2004, 7:00 p.m. at the same chapel. Cremation will be on February 11, 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park Crematorium, Parañaque, after the Mass of the Resurrection to be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. at the Mt. Carmel Church.

Interment will be at The Columbary of Sto. Niño de Cebu, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City after the cremation.

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VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC.

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

Victorias Milling Company, Inc., Victorias City, Negros Occidental, invites interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the **one-year supply/requirement of common office supplies/items.**

Pre-qualification forms are available at the MCD Office, VMC Millsite and at the VMC Makati Procurement Office during office hours from **February 9 to 13, 2004,** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php500.00. Deadline for submission of pre-qualification papers is on **February 16, 2004.** The pre-bidding conference for qualified bidders is on **February 20, 2004, 3:30 P.M.** at the **HRD Conference Room, VMC Millsite**, Victorias City, Negros Occidental. The bidding date will be announced thereafter. Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the bid price in the form of cashier's/ manager's check payable to Victorias Milling Company, Inc.

For further inquiries, please contact **Messrs. Carlos S. Quiatchon, Dan C. Labrador or Ramon P. Pun-an** at VMC Millsite at telephone numbers **(034) 399-3696 to 97, (034)399-3699** or (local) **2309**, and **Mr. Ping Abad** at VMC Makati Procurement Office at telephone numbers **(02)890-5256** and **(02)890-7062.** Our website is **www.victoriasmilling.com** and our e-mail address is **mcd@victoriasmilling.com.**

Victorias Milling Company, Inc., reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the Company. The Company assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder/s for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **TERESITA V. ILAGAN**
Chairperson, Senior Bidding Committee

(PDI--Feb. 9, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF CEBU
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Cebu thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) invites all interested manufacturers, suppliers, and/or distributors to apply for eligibility and to submit bids for the following items:

ITEMS	Quantities	P.R. No.	ALOBS No.	Funding Source	Approved Budget
1. a) Monobloc Tablet Armchairs (elementary) 200 lbs.	5,700 pcs.	03-29-19	200-03-10-187	Provincial School Board	
b) Monobloc Tablet Armchairs (secondary) 300 lbs.	5,700 pcs.	03-29-19	200-03-10-187	Provincial School Board	P5,000,000.00
2. Concrete Electrical Poles, Pre-stressed spun, round, 30 ft/9m 500 kgs.	1,500 length	04-232	100-04-01-568	20% Development Fund, Electrification	P9,525,000.00

In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, the bidders should conform to the eligibility criteria as prescribed under Section 23.6 of the approved IRR-A of Republic Act No. 9184.

Eligibility and bid forms, tender documents and request for quotation shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial General Services Office, DepED Building, Capitol, Cebu City, within the government prescribed office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. starting Tuesday, February 3, 2004, upon payment of non-refundable fee of one hundred pesos (Php100.00).

Pre-bid conference will be conducted on Thursday, February 12, 2004, 10:00 A.M. for Item No. 1 and 2:00 P.M. for Item No. 2, at the BAC conference room, Office of the Provincial General Services, DepED Building, Capitol, Cebu City.

Sealed envelopes containing the duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be received by the BAC Secretariat at the above-mentioned address not later than 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, February 24, 2004 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) of R.A. No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Province of Cebu reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered complying and most advantageous to the government.

For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at Telephone Nos. 253-9614/253-5995.

These requirements are also posted at the PGSO Bulletin Board, DepED Bldg., Capitol, Cebu City.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO T. HABIN**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI-Feb. 3 & 9, 2004)

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Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at P. Paredes cor. N. Reyes Sts. (formerly Morayta St.), Sampaloc, Manila, hereby invites interested bidders to apply for:

Items to Bid for 2004 requirements	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Venue of Pre-bid Conference	Non-Refundable Fee
Printing and Supply of Computerized Application Forms (CAF)	**P311,460.00** At P1.74 per sheet of imported Bookpaper O' At P1.96 per sheet of imported OCR paper (179,000 pcs.)	February 18, 2004 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Auditorium 5th Floor, Annex Bldg.	P1,000.00

Only bidders registered with the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for procurement of goods shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process. Bidders may obtain the list of the registration requirements for procurement of goods at the **Office of the BAC Chairperson, Commissioner Leonor Tripon-Rosero, 2nd Floor, PRC Main Bldg.**, starting on February 3, 2004. Deadline for submission of registration requirements shall be at 5:00 p.m. on February 13, 2004. Issuance of Certification of registration to bidders for procurement of goods shall be on February 18, 2004 with a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR), may be obtained by interested bidders starting on February 3, 2004 from the Office of the BAC Chairperson.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and its implementing rules and regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, or to annul the bidding process at any time prior to contract award, to waive any required formality in the bids received or defects therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Commission, without giving any reason thereto and incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) **ANTONIETA FORTUNA-IBE**
Chairperson

(PDI - Feb. 2 & 9, 2004)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE JUNK ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING: February 26, and 27, 2004, 2:00 p.m.
The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following junk and unserviceable items:

SCHEDULE - I: February 26, 2004, 2:00 PM, MMD Bidding Room, Bldg-1, NPC-HO, Diliman, QC

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1.	One (1) lot scrap metals consisting of aluminum claddings, radiators corroded drums and GI sheets, pipes motors, post and suspension insulators steel beams, fire extinguishers steel plates, copper wires, and other junk items located at the barricaded area of the Waste Segregation Area, Plant B, Mak-Ban GPP Bo. Bitin, Bay, Laguna	P 1,645,000.00/lot
2.	One (1) lot of assorted cables consisting of co-axial, telephone, power and control cables located at Bataan TPP, Limay, Bataan.	P 1,040,550.00/lot
3.	One (1) lot scrap metals consisting of deformed and corroded rebars, wire rope cuttings, unserviceable steel towers and obsolete steel towers located at Kalayaan Warehouse	P 215,600.00/lot
*4.	One (1) lot expired AERO Foam, approximately 88 pails and 11 drums of waste/sludge oil located at Navotas Tank Farm, Navotas Fish Port, Navotas, Metro Manila	P 7,436.00/lot

* DENR permit is required for participating bidders

SCHEDULE - II: February 27, 2004, 2:00 PM, MMD Bidding Rm., Bldg.-1, NPC-HO, Diliman, QC

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION and LOCATION	MIN. BID PRICE
1.	One (1) unit Junk, FMC Crane, 50-tonner located at BTPP, Limay Bataan	P 660,000.00
2.	Barite, approximately 4,114 bags, 100 lbs/bag located at Mak-Ban GPP, Bo. Bitin, Bay-Laguna	P 326.00/bag
3.	One (1) lot splatter board made of plastics, approximately 10,000 kgs located at Mak-Ban GPP, Bo. Bitin, Bay, Laguna	P 2.00/kg.
*4.	One (1) unit unserviceable, retired and cannibalized electric generating set "CKD" Brand, 448 KW rating, Unit No. 5 of Bantayan DPP, Bantayan, Cebu	P 472,000.00

* Bidding will be simultaneous with SPUG Cebu Office.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. **PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE**
2. **LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER OR AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (2002 ORIGINAL OR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY OF BIR).**

All interested parties who wish to secure bid forms for the said bidding must present a valid Tax Identification Card or Income Tax Return.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/ set from S.V. Lomuntad Jr. at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone no. 924-5384. For Visayas bidders, Schedule II, Item no. 4; One (1) unit unserviceable Genset "CKD", the bidding shall be conducted simultaneously at NPC SPUG Office, 4th Floor BF Bldg., Escario Street, Cebu City and the NPC Head Office. Visayas bidders may secure bid form for P500.00 for the said schedule from Mr. Edmundo A. Veloso, Jr., Department Manager, SPUG Visayas or call telephone no. 256-3694. **Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 p.m. February 25, 2004 for Schedule-I, February 26 for Schedule-II.**

For the Materials Management Department

(Sgd.) **FELIX B. TACATA, JR.**
OIC, MMD

(PDI - Feb. 9, 10 & 11, 2004)

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People, Events & Products

Editor Aries Espinosa

Landmark study shows blood pressure pill saves lives

MORE than 2,000 heart specialists and other practicing physicians gathered at the Le Pavillion along Roxas Boulevard, Manila Jan. 22 to listen to the presentation of the results and clinical implications of a landmark study that researchers hope will change the medical landscape in the management of heart diseases.

Results of Valiant-acronym for Valsartan in Acute Myocardial Infarction Trial, was presented to doctors from all over the country by professor Inder Anand, chief of the cardiology section of the Veterans Affair Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Valiant is one of the largest studies to date in the treatment after a heart attack. The study compared the effectiveness as well as the safety and tolerability of representatives from two classes of drugs popularly used for high blood pressure-ACE or angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor and valsartan, an angiotensin receptor blocker in preventing death and other cardiovascular complications.

Researchers of the study found that valsartan is as effective as a proven regimen of an ACE inhibitor in reducing the risk of death among heart attack patients.

"Valsartan is not only effective in the treatment of heart failure, and is approved for patients who cannot be maintained on an ACE inhibitor, it is also the only cardiovascular agent ever demonstrated in a head-to-head trial to have all the proven benefits of an ACE inhibitor, captopril, in patients following a heart attack," said Anand.

Although ACE inhibitors has been found in various clinical trials to be effective in the treatment of heart attack patients and those with hypertension, their use has not been optimized in clinical practice because of their bothersome side-effects, specifically itchiness of the throat and coughing. The Valiant study provides evidence that compared to an ACE inhibitor, treatment with valsartan resulted in a much lower incidence of adverse drug reactions.

Dr. Maqbool Jafary, another renowned heart specialist practicing at the Faiz-E-Aam Hospital in Karachi, Pakistan, also discussed the other clinical benefits with the use of valsartan.

According to renowned Filipino cardiologist Dr. Antonio Sibulo Jr, valsartan has a very good tolerability profile. This, he noted, makes it a clinically effective alternative since tolerability to a drug is important for long-term treatments such as in ischemic heart disease and heart failure.

Dr. Esperanza Cabral, president of the Philippine Society of Hypertension and a highly respected cardiologist in the country today, also emphasized the cost-effectiveness of drugs. She said that this is very important in cardiovascular therapy as we give these medicines for a long time. She believes that valsartan, locally available under the brand name Diovan, is a cost-effective therapy in improving the patient's prognosis following a heart attack.

The results of the Valiant study is good news not just for patients but also for physicians, because they now have an effective alternative that they can prescribe to their patients who are at high risk for cardiovascular events following a heart attack.

The other distinguished medical luminaries who gave their inputs on the ideal treatment of heart patients were Dr. Ramon Abarquez, South Asia representative of the World Hypertension League, Dr. Homobono Calleja, director emeritus of the St. Luke's Heart Institute, and Dr. Romeo Divinagracia, president of the Heart Failure Society.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

On Feb. 9, the Friends of Intramuros Foundation, in cooperation with the Memorare Manila 1945 committee and the Rotary Club of Intramuros, will lead the Intramuros community in commemorative memorial rites known as 'A Day of Remembrance, Recognition, and Resolution.' The public is invited to join the ceremonies, which last no more than two hours. It is an opportunity to learn the history of Intramuros and reflect upon the course of events and personages that mark our progress as a nation. Shown is the Memorare-Manila 1945 Monument at Plazuela de Sta. Isabel in Gen. Luna Street, one of the monuments honored in last year's rites. For more information, call 527-2113 and ask for Agnes or Donna.

V. MAPA HIGH CLASS '49'S EMERALD YEAR

V. Mapa High School Class 1949 alumni hold a series of activities during the month-long celebration of their emerald (55th) anniversary, which commenced Feb. 7 at the V. Mapa High School building on San Rafael Street, Manila. Shown are the officers and members in charge of the celebration. Seated, from left, are Guing Dypiangco-Tolentino, Flor Banag-Santarin, Gerry Fernando, Ben Juarez and Adoring Mariano-Acuna. Standing, from left, are Danny Santiago, Del Inocentes-Angeles, Tino Otanes, Lou Lontok-Rivera, Prescy Gonzalez-Avenir, Al Nuguid, Josie Joya-Baldovino and Annie Ramajo-Letargo. For more information, call Gerry Fernando at 922-6210, Guing Tolentino at 493-2716, or Flor Santarin at 521-6612.

Clips

Exhibit features Canadian artist

A WORLD-CLASS Canadian artist, Sylvie Bélanger, will present her innovative works together with other renowned artists Kan Xuan from China, Philippe Laleu and Christine Monceau from France, Michael Campbell from the United States, and Yoshinori Hosoki from Japan in a unique exhibit titled "i miss you". A joint project of Alliance Française de Manille, the Canadian Embassy in Manila, the Japan Foundation Manila Office, and Big Sky Mind, the exhibit will run from Feb. 9 to 27 at the Alliance Total Gallery, 209 Nicanor Garcia Street, Bel-Air II, Makati City. Admission is free. "I miss you" underlines a problem that keeps arising. The individual keeps depriving himself/herself of his/her own substance. Now, mankind no longer feeds on its own dreams. Experience this cutting-edge exhibit. For details, call: 8957585/8957441.

Ateneo launches PASN

THE AUSTRALIAN Embassy welcomes the inauguration of the Philippines-Australia Studies Network (PASN), a pioneer project of the Ateneo de Manila University, in partnership with La Trobe University in Melbourne. The PASN aims to encourage Australian and Filipino scholars and students to facilitate the exchange of studies and research between the two countries, including specialist studies on the Philippines, Australia, and the region. The PASN is also a coordinating body promoting research exchange between Ateneo and La Trobe. Prominent scholars and professors from La Trobe will join their Ateneo counterparts starting Feb. 9 to launch PASN. The inaugural program will be held on Feb. 9, 4 p.m., at the Escaler Hall, Science Education Complex A, Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. For more information, call the Ateneo de Manila University at 4266001 loc 4654 and 4031.

Isaca-Manila's 1st confab

ISACA-Manila will be holding its first Annual Conference on Feb. 9 and 10 at the Peninsula Manila, Makati. Dubbed as "IT Governance: The Synergy of Business, IT, and Audit Professionals", the conference focuses on the latest strategies to address business, managerial, operational, auditing and technical challenges associated with information systems and technology, and explores in more detail the interplay of enterprise and IT governance processes. With more than 26,000 members in 100 countries, International Systems Audit and Control Association (Isaca) is a recognized global leader in IT governance, control and assurance. Isaca sponsors international conferences, publishes Cobit and administers the globally respected CISA designation held by more than 13,000 professionals worldwide, and the CISM designation. An impressive lineup of both locally and internationally recognized speakers have been assembled for the conference.

Philippine Fashion Awards

THE 1ST Annual Philippine Fashion Awards (APFA) is a special premiere tribute conferred by the Philippine Fashion Awards Committee, the national award-giving body for fashion and non-fashion retailers jointly with the PFAF, FDAP and Lasalle College International. The event will confer tributes to outstanding retailers, consumer products, services, business entities, individuals and manufacturers. Awarding ceremonies will be held on April 16, 6 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Century Park Hotel, Manila. For details, call the Philippine Fashion Awards Committee at 448-7871 or e-mail philfashionawards@yahoo.com.

Tourism beginners' island hopping

NEW ON bookstore shelves is a handbook for Tourism students and an easy reference for every Filipino interested in discovering the Philippine islands. Domestic Tourism by Carlos M. Libosada Jr will give you reader-friendly write-ups on every province's geographical information, main tourist attractions, current problems, opportunities for growth, and directions on how to get there. While not a hard-sell of the Philippines as a tourist destination, the book lists the 7,100 reasons to fully experience the Pearl of the Orient. Domestic Tourism is available in all National Bookstore and Powerbooks branches. For inquiries and evaluation copies for professors, call Anvil Publishing at 637-5692 or 747-1622.

Catering seminar set

PROACTIVE Center for Training (PACT) will hold a Managing a Catering Business Seminar-Workshop from Feb. 9 to 18 (excluding weekends), from 1 to 6 p.m., at the Ipanema Bar and Restaurant, 2nd Level Eastwood City Walk, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. The workshop is open to all caterers, food executives and other entrepreneurs who are planning to open a catering business. The 8-day training will feature lectures and hands-on workshops on legal requirements, planning the menu, equipment and staffing, cost control, room arrangements, napkin folding and table skirting, among others. For reservations, call 787-6370 or 0916-8226053. Seminar fee is inclusive of materials and handouts, workshop manual, snacks, field trip to food and equipment suppliers, and a certificate of completion.

2004 Gold Quill awards

THE GOLD Quill Awards, now on its 3rd year as the new benchmark for excellence in communication programs and tools, is drawing more entries as the deadline nears. IABC president Ramon "Bong" Osorio, president of Campaigns Advocacy and PR Inc, announced that the deadline for entries is on Feb. 9. For more information, interested parties may call the IABC secretariat at 892-9592, Eva Penamora at 811-1242 or Cosette Romero at 813-0559, or e-mail info@iabc.com.ph. The IABC Philippines website is www.iabc.com.ph. The annual event, conducted by the International Association of Business Communicators Philippines, is the official local version of a prestigious contest among hundreds of entries vying for honors at the world IABC congress in Los Angeles this June. IABC will hold the Asia Pacific Communication Conference on March 29 and 30 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

ZOOBIC SAFARI OPENING

Zoobic Safari is the new safari theme park in Subic's Forest Adventure Zone. Shown from left are Zoobic Safari president/owner Robert L. Yupangco, SBMA Chairman Felicito Payumo; a Zoobic Safari girl, and Clark Development Corp chair Dr. Emmanuel Angeles all in smiles as they take time to have fun with the Zoobic Safari's albino.

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cebu
Bids and Awards Committee
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The Provincial Government of Cebu through the BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) invites qualified Contractors with "AAA" License and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Large "B" for Roads, to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids for Road Improvement Projects (Asphalting) – Phase II, Package I of the Province of Cebu, charged against the General Fund in the amount of P30,269,001.72 under PR # 04-396 dated 01-29-04 and ALOBS # 100-04-01 dated 01-29-04 and, charged against Continuing Appropriation for 20% Development Fund in the amount of P26,039,306.23 under PR # 04-395 dated 01-29-04 and Alobs # 100-04-01 dated 01-19-04 with a total Approved Budget for the Contract of P56,308,307.95.

Fund Source	Road Sections	Length (Km)
General Fund		
	Siborga Port Road, Siborga	0.300
	Kawayan – Mantalongon Road, Dalaguete	2.000
	Boljoon – San Antonio Road, Boljoon	4.535
	Malabuyoc – Sorsogon Road, Malabuyoc	3.000
	Pob. Alegria – Lepanto Alcoy Road	3.000
	Dapdap – Bangkasan Road, San Remegio	1.888
	Sogod Pansoy Road, Sogod	2.000
	Sub-total	16.723
20% Development Fund		
	Balirong – Alpaco Road, Naga	2.488
	Vito – Candulawan Road, Minglanilla	3.007
	Can-asuhan (Bridge Approach), Carcar	0.500
	Banhigan – Maney-as Road, Badian	1.233
	Balao – Doldol Road, Bantl	2.000
	Lakdon – Cambuhawe Road, Balamban	0.726
	Poblacion Tabogon Minan, Tabogon	4.645
	Sub-total	14.599
	Total Length	31.322

Interested parties are requested to submit a Letter of Intent and updated documents to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), through the BAC Secretariat prior to the issuance of the Plans and Bid Documents

Major Items of Work Involved

Item 310 – Bit. Concrete Surface Coarse (Hot Laid, 50 mm thk)

Minimum Equipment Requirements:

Equipment Type	Quantity	
Asphalt Batching Plant, (Cap. 80 Tons/Hr.)	1 Unit	Owned
Asphalt Distributor (Truck Mounted)	2 Units	Owned
Asphalt Paver	2 Units	Owned
	2 Units	Leased
Hydraulic Excavator	2 Units	Owned
	2 Units	Leased
Motor Grader	3 Units	Owned
Tandem Road Roller (10 Tons)	2 Units	Owned
Vibratory Compactor (15 Tons)	2 Units	Owned
Pneumetic Road Roller (12 Tons)	2 Units	Owned
Water Truck (Cap. 6,000 gals.)	2 Units	Owned
Dump Trucks, (10 T - 20 T)	10 Units	Owned
Payloader, 2.5 cu.m.	4 Units	Owned

Schedule for the Procurement Activities:

	Dates	Time	Place
Submittal of Letter of Intent & Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Feb. 3-9, 2004	8:00-5:00 P.M.	PGSO, BAC Secretariat
Deadline for submission of Eligibility Documents	Feb. 13, 2004	8:00-5:00 P.M.	PGSO, BAC Secretariat
Issuance of Notice to Eligible Bidders	Feb. 20, 2004	8:00-5:00 P.M.	PGSO, BAC Secretariat
Issuance of Plans and Bid documents	Feb. 23, 2004	8:00-5:00 P.M.	PGSO, BAC Secretariat
Pre-bidding Conference	Feb. 25, 2004	10:00 A.M.	PGSO, BAC Secretariat
Public Bidding	March 11, 2004	10:00 A.M.	PGSO, BAC Secretariat

Only Bids within the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid will be accepted.

Plans and Bid Documents can be obtained from the BAC Secretariat, PGSO, DEP-ED Bldg., Cebu Capitol, Cebu City upon payment of non-refundable amount of P6,000.00

All particulars relative to the eligible process, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Province of Cebu reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered complying and most advantageous to the Government.

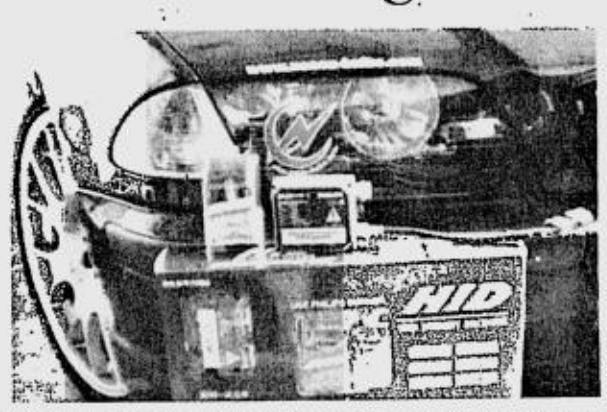
For more information please contact the BAC Secretariat at Tel. No. 253-9614 / 253-3981. This requirement is also posted at the PGSO Bulletin Board, DEP-ED Bldg., Capitol, Cebu City.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
Chairman

(PDI – February 3 & 9, 2004)

ProductFILES

Bright idea



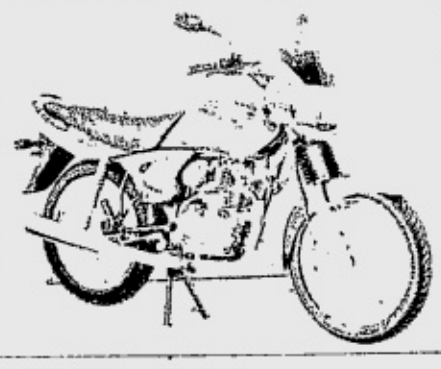
INCREASE the level of safety of your car during nighttime driving with High Intensity Discharge (HiD) Xenon lamps. This new lighting technology replaces the old halogen heated tungsten filament via creating light by zapping an arc between two electrodes. This excites the Xenon gas, which in turn ignites metallic salts.

The beam of light produced by an HiD Xenon lighting system is 3 times greater than a standard halogen bulb with less power consumption (35 watts). Xenon's bright white beam offers greater nighttime visibility, road safety, and longer service life (3000 hours). HiD systems are OEM of premium brands such as Mercedes Benz, BMW and Lexus. It is distributed locally by Hummer Philippines Inc. For inquiries on how to brighten up your life, call 731-4433/410-6372.

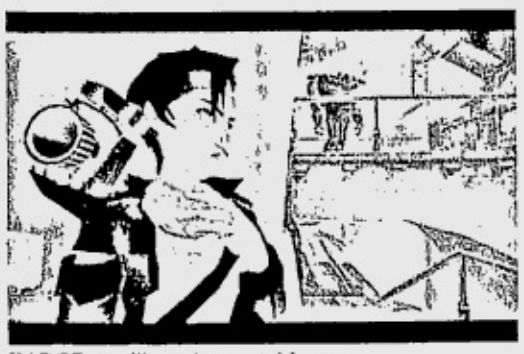
Partnership to progress

STARTING the year with a bang, Kawasaki Motors Philippines Corp and Bajaj Auto Limited, one of the leading motorcycle manufacturers in India, have officially agreed to form a partnership to revitalize the local industry.

The agreement formally designates KMPC the official distributor of Bajaj motorcycles son to be introduced in the local market. Among these are the latest Bajaj 4-stroke engine models: the new Bajaj Wind 125, the Bajaj Caliber 115 and Bajaj BYK 100.



This joint venture is a step forward in strengthening the alliance that first began in 1984 with the technical collaboration agreement between Kawasaki Heavy Industries in Japan and Bajaj Auto Ltd. Since then, over 3 million Kawasaki-Bajaj bikes had been roaming the world's streets.


IN BGE, you'll go picture taking . . .

Go on stealth mode . . .

Go hand-to-hand with aliens . . .

Kick some military butt . . .

'Beyond Good and Evil' goes beyond ordinary

By Leo Magno

MICHEL Ancel must really like the Legend of Zelda series, and it shows in Beyond Good and Evil (BGE), the latest game to emerge from the mind of the game design genius from France.

Ancel, best known for the imaginative Rayman platformer, worked with a team from Ubisoft Europe to come up with a gem that is BGE. The comparison with Zelda is not without basis as BGE dishes out a good array of varied gameplay in this action title.

In this game, you play as Jade, a female photographer who's anti-establishment and anti-totalitarian rule. Jade and company seek to liberate the planet Hillys from the fascist rule of the Alpha Sections while dealing with the alien invasion of the evil Domz.

Like Link of Zelda, Jade also wears green garbs (she's not called Jade for nothing). If you remember "Majora's Mask" and the more recent "Wind Waker" from the Zelda series, at times Link will have to use a camera to take snapshots of certain objects or creatures. BGE incorporates this fun concept of viewing in first-person creatures from a camera's viewfinder. Jade gets monetary compensation (which in turn are used to buy stuff in the game) for taking pictures of flora and fauna, and she also uses the camera to gather proof of the Alpha Sections' connivance with the Domz. The picture-proof are then sent via underground channels to the Hillyans, citizens of Hillys. Talk about investigative photo-journalism.

I had fun taking pictures in Zelda, and Ubisoft extended that fun to BGE. Again, like Zelda, BGE is only semi-linear. You have a set mission and are constantly guided to finish that mission, but there's nothing stopping you from stopping to smell the flowers, complete sidequests and traveling around the planet to take pictures of animals on land, sea and air—from creatures as small as flies to huge whales. Most of them are hidden, too, and it takes timing and proper magnification and framing to get the shot. It was totally fun.

Even the controls are Zelda-esque in terms of being intuitive. Jade jumps over gaps, slides sideways through narrow passageways, climbs up when pressed against a ladder or stoops low when needed. A new option pops up when a new item or action is needed, and the directions toward your next goal are marked.

In BGE, you get to ride and do battle from a hovercraft or from a spaceship. You also get to do some hand-to-hand combat, and at times you can do powerful hits wherein everything goes in slow motion—sit back and watch how visually cool that is. You can even shoot shuriken-like magneto discs in first-person view to dispatch enemies or manipulate objects in puzzles. This game puts the player in a lot of situations that require him or her to think of creative ways to perform tasks or dispatch enemies, and sometimes you need to use two characters to get a job done.

The bosses are rather easy, though. And—again, like Zelda—all the bosses have different attack patterns and you have to figure out what this pattern is.

It doesn't stop there. The varied play styles in BGE also allow you to play air hockey, do hovercraft races, figure out some entrance puzzles and do some stealth action as you go along. Ubisoft is the maker of the uber-stealth game "Splinter Cell," and the simple stealth action in BGE is a cool addition to the stunningly varied gameplay of this title.

Although BGE is not entirely original, it does offer a fresh look, something Ancel excels at. BGE's visual presentation does not fail to impress as the appropriate feel for each area is well-done. Be it a sinister-looking lab, a gloomy cave, a rusted labyrinthine factory, or a vibrant cityscape, the graphics are well executed and create a character for Hillys. Since you also do a lot of traveling back and forth in Hillys and since you can roam the planet freely during sidequests, you'd get to appreciate the look and feel Ancel and his team gave BGE.

Also of note are the characters, the creatures which populate Hillys. From Uncle Pey'j, the pig-man to the Chinese trader who is actually a walrus-man; and from the flying manta ray to huge sea creatures which you have to document with photographs—BGE offers a living, breathing fantasy world in the form of Hillys.

The audio complements the look and feel of BGE. The voice acting is top-notch, the background music is effective and the soundtrack—a fusion of Latino and Reggae—is kind of cool.

Some would find BGE too easy and may find themselves being spoon-fed too much. Others may find the puzzles too simple or the stealth and battle action too corny. However, this game has enough varied gameplay, intuitive controls, good storyline and fresh visuals to merit well-earned praise. Also, the story moves at a fast pace and offers enough things to do to keep the player engaged. Don't pass this one up.

Race and fight on a hovercraft . . .

Blast alien scum from your spaceship . . .

Do karate chops and pig out with a porker . . .

And generally just hang out with weird creatures.

SAS on the rebound, eyes 35% business growth in RP

By Alex Villafania,
Contributor

AFTER A RESURGENCE of its local operations early last year, the Philippine office of analytic software provider SAS is aiming to expand its business.

SAS Institute Philippines plans to increase its manpower by 50 percent, with the aim of increasing operating revenue growth between 30 and 35 percent by the end of 2004. The company also announced double-digit revenue growth in 2003, with 99 percent growth in new licenses for its products and 57 percent in software revenue. It grew another 43 percent and 77 percent in operating revenue and operating profits, respectively.

SAS Institute Philippines managing director Sonny Halili said his company is aggressively pursuing the top five firms from the banking, telecommunications and insurance industries. SAS' plans also coincided with the launch of its new SAS 9 platform, which can be used by a company's staff across the board due to its Web-based interface.

"We're going to entice new and existing clients with the manageability and scalability of the SAS 9 platform. We're seeing that corporations are in need of more reliable business analysis software that is also cost-effective," Halili said.

PLDT loses dispute over . . .

From page B16

Four years ago, PLDT filed a P1.35-million lawsuit against Kaimo, arguing that he was violating the company's intellectual property over the PLDT trade name.

In its complaint, PLDT claimed that Kaimo and advocacy group Philippine League for Democratic Telecommunications Inc. (PLDTi) have violated the company's intellectual property right for using the trade name which it has been using for more than 70 years.

Reacting to the court ruling, Kaimo said: "Today, I'm very happy. We have shown that we have the capacity to fight this giant."

In a telephone interview, Kaimo said that his victory shows that the "little guys" have a chance against the "giants."

"It's a battle won for now at least. I don't think the war is over though. Their resources are deep," Kaimo added, expecting that PLDT would appeal the case to higher courts.

WHAT'S in a domain name? Ask PLDT.

The court has set a pre-trial conference on Feb. 23, 2004 for Kaimo's P50-million countersuit against PLDT.

Meanwhile, officials from PLDT declined to comment on the ruling, saying that they have to wait for official word from its lawyers at Sycip Salazar.

Chipmaker AMD raids RP . . .

From page B16

Philippines, denied being the source of the fake chips.

AsianTech, however, has been warning the local market since 2001 of these mislabeled chips that are still making their way into the country.

AsianTech previously admitted advertising through flyers and local newspapers to warn local consumers of these remarked AMD chips being sold in the market and to make sure that consumers buy products with AsianTech's seal of warranty.

AsianTech gets its supply of AMD chips from Singaporean supplier IntraCo Technology Pte Ltd. Meanwhile, Axis Global is getting its supply of AMD chips from Avnet Applied Computing, an AMD-authorized distributor in Southeast Asia.

Remarked chips are lower-end processors that are re-labeled or altered to appear as higher-end models that are often more powerful and expensive. This allows unscrupulous resellers to undercut competition since they now can price these chips lower than the standard street price.

Among the processors being remarked are the Duron and Athlon AMD chip models.

Axis Global has indicated that remarked AMD chips are making their way to the country more likely through the gray market, and not through the legitimate resellers such as their company.

The two authorized resellers of AMD chips in the Philippines—Axis Global and AsianTech—are now engaged in a word war, as they directly or indirectly are accusing each other of being the source of the mislabeled chips.

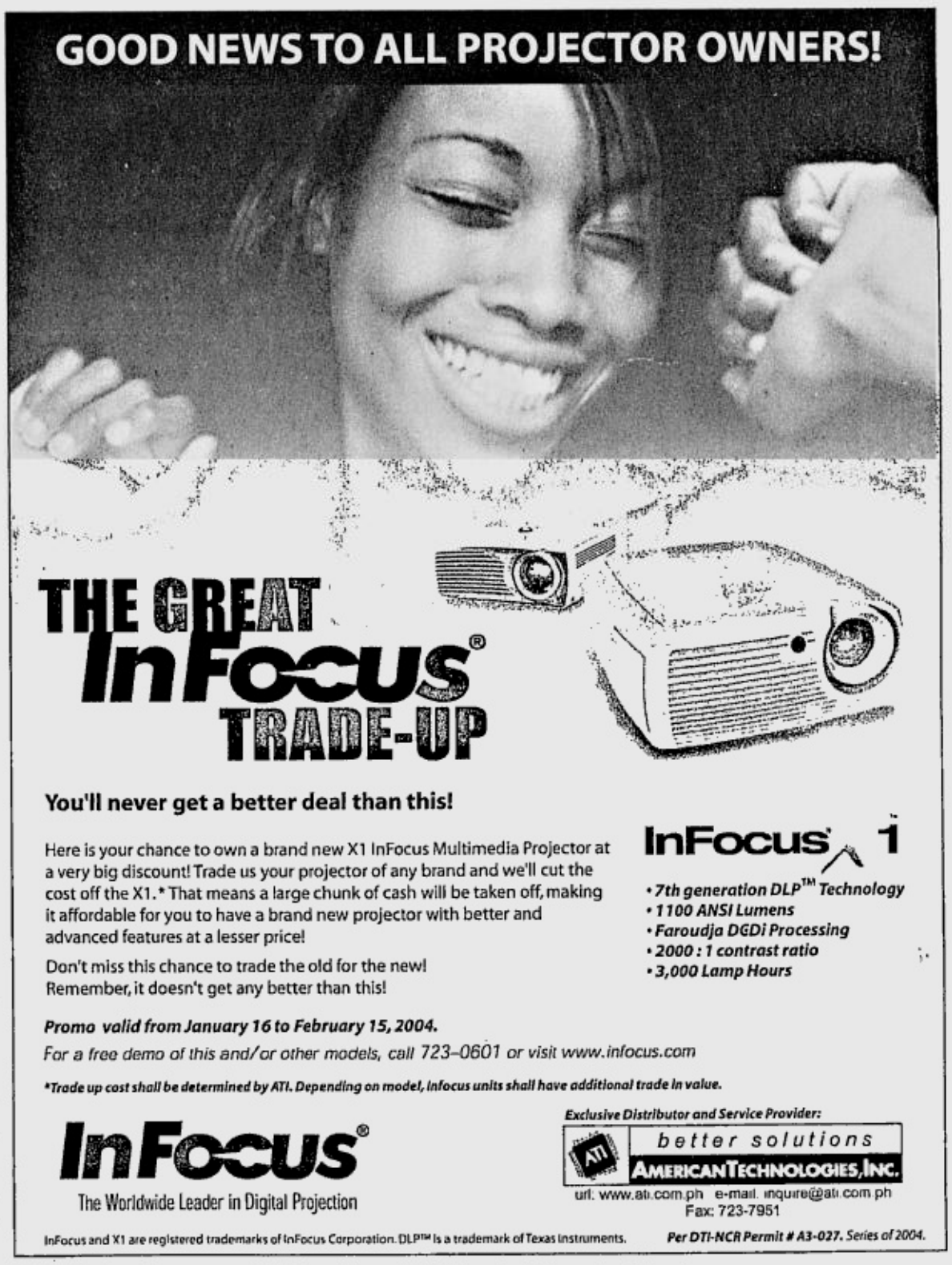
This has led to some confusion among local dealers, which have recently threatened to return the supply of chips they bought from these two companies, a source said.

Axis Global was implicated as one of the local authorized resellers of AMD to be selling remarked AMD chips based on an AMD report obtained by Infotech.

Axis Global's warranty seal along with local dealer PC Shack was seen on the remarked AMD chips, as shown by pictures contained in the AMD report.

The reseller, however, vehemently denied being the source of the remarked chips.

Sources indicated that Axis Global is planning to stop selling AMD processors and focus on selling a rival chip following this brouhaha. Intel Corp. is AMD's biggest rival.



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PLDT loses dispute over domain name

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THE FIRST and longest domain and trade name dispute in the Philippines between the country's biggest telecommunications company and Gerry Kaimo, registered owner of the "pldt.com" domain name, has finally ended after the courts decided in favor of Kaimo.

In a court order, Judge Reynaldo Daway denied the request for preliminary injunction by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) against Kaimo, who was accused of allegedly infringing on the telephone company's trade name, and for "engaging in unfair competition for using the trade name."

"After carefully considering and evaluating evidences presented during the hearing and after duly considering the documents adverted to and relevant pleadings including their respective memorandum in so far as they are pertinent to the issue under consideration, the Court finds that the plaintiff (PLDT) has not been able to show its entitlement to the relief prayed for," the court ruling stated.

The ruling, dated Jan. 29, 2004, was issued from Branch 90 of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

Kaimo is the registered owner of the domain name "pldt.com," on which he recently placed a website for political commentary on the current administration.

PLDT/B15

Chipmaker AMD raids RP stores, 'fake' chips found

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

SIMULTANEOUS raids conducted Thursday by computer processor maker AMD on four shops in Metro Manila yielded fake chips that were previously reported to have found their way into the local market.

According to R.V. Domingo and Associates, legal representative of AMD in the Philippines, the shops were Dreamchum PC Specialists and West Avenue Computer in Quezon City; PC Express in Shaw Boulevard; and Villman Computers in Makati City.

The National Bureau of Investigation was tapped to lead the raid after a thorough investigation that started some time in January, an industry source told Infotech.

Investigations were "silently" conducted in the country after fake or "remarked" AMD chips were discovered circulating in the local market. The reports were based on an AMD document, which showed that remarked chips were being sold in the Philippines by local resellers.

The source said that simultaneous raids were conducted in other Asian countries and Europe, indicating that the counterfeit AMD chips have also landed in these regions.

AMD lawyers said the NBI confiscated around 30 chips, which would be used as evidence against the computer shops and the local resellers.

"We are still studying what kind of charges would be slapped against these companies," said Stanley Zamparrano of R.V. Domingo Associates.

Earlier, Axis Global Technologies and Asian Technologies Computer Corp. (AsianTech), which are both reselling AMD chips in the

CHIPMAKER/B15

It would be a pity if you didn't look at the Lange 1 movement with a magnifying glass.

But you certainly don't need one to read its patented outsize date.

The Lange 1's balance-cock.
Lange's inimitable watchmaking skill in magnification: free-hand cutting by a master engraver makes every balance-cock unmistakably unique, and the patented whiplash precision index adjuster combines the aesthetic beauty of superb craftsmanship with Lange's watchmaking ingenuity. The result is technical and artistic perfection of a degree which can only be found in Lange watches.
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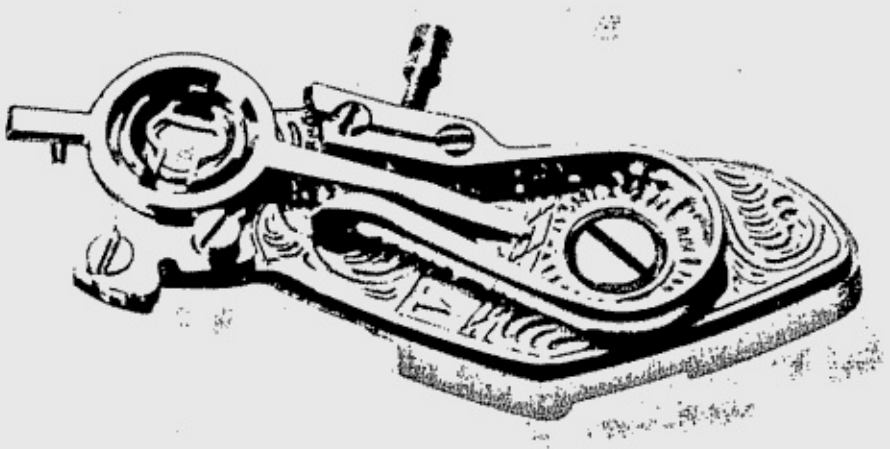

The Lange 1 with outsize date.
One of mechanical watchmaking's most strikingly useful inventions allows for a date display three times the size of those on conventional wristwatches. The patented double-disc mechanism with over 40 individual components may be the most significant contemporary watchmaking innovation. This mechanism, and the distinctive twin mainspring barrels for three day's power reserve with indicator, makes for an unprecedented watchmaking masterpiece. The Lange 1 is available in 18-carat gold or in platinum.

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BUSINESSMonday

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Business Features Editor
Margie Quimpo-Espino

A WORD FROM WASHINGTON SYCIP

'Economic freedom first, then political freedom'

IF a country insists on having political freedom first, then its economy will grow at a much slower pace.

This, according to Washington SyCip, chairman of the board of the Asian Institute of Management.

In an interview with the businessman sought after for his views on the economy, he stressed that democracy doesn't mean very much, in real terms, if "the bottom group," meaning the most impoverished, is hungry.

"Ideally," he said, "you give economic freedom with tight political control. Political freedom will come when, with the improved economy, people are no longer hungry."

The Philippines' neighbors, Taiwan, South Korea and the East Asian countries including Malaysia and Thailand, have all demonstrated this.

Comparing India's political freedom with China's authoritarianism, it is obvious which country has made greater economic progress, he said.

While slums abound in Mumbai and Calcutta, they are becoming a thing of the past in China, where more economic benefits have been delivered to the bottom group.

Freedom of the press and of political expression are "still quite distant" in China, "but the drop in poverty levels has been the fastest in world history."

The Philippines demonstrated the highest growth rates in 1973 and 1974 during martial law, he pointed out.

But the gains were dissipated when technocrats were replaced by Marcos relatives and cronies, leading to the economy's eventual collapse.

The man who sits on advisory committees of many American institutions scoffs at Western ideas

SYCIP

of instant democracy applied to poor countries, which have failed to reduce poverty.

SyCip is on the advisory boards of Harvard and Columbia University, the American International Group, The Conference Board, The Council on Foreign Relations, The Asia Society and, until recently, The Chase Manhattan Bank and the Joseph H. Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies of the University of Pennsylvania.

"Education is the most effective economic equalizer," he said.

Yet, with the present disparity in educational standards between expensive private schools and the public school system, the gap between the rich and poor remains wide.

Though coming from a family of means, the boy was sent by his father, the banker Albino SyCip, to the Burgos Elementary School in Sta. Mesa. He and his brothers walked to school because their father didn't want them to show off to their public school classmates by riding in the family car.

He went on to another public institution, the V. Mapa High School, only to prove the superiority of the public school system by graduating summa cum laude in Commerce and a meritissimus for a master's course from the University of Santo Tomas. He completed his master's degree in Commerce at Columbia University in New York.

"I visited a school in Payatas last month. I was shocked with the facilities there," he said, notwithstanding that the school is assisted by the Ateneo de Manila University.

"Gina Lopez bought them a television set to help them with math and the sciences, but otherwise, the school is poorly equipped," he said.

SyCip bought them a computer, but that will help only a bit more, according to him.

"On the way to the Payatas school, you see houses where garbage is dumped right into their homes. What kind of consciences do our politicians have?" he said.

"Everyone says, why should we pay taxes when we see politicians wasting it all? Our tax collection, as a percentage of gross domestic product, is lower even than Indonesia's." The tax money collected shouldn't be wasted on pork barrel funds and kickbacks on contracts, he noted.

"Senate President Frank Drilon's school buildings cost half of what the Department of Public Works and Highways' buildings cost, so he can build twice the number of schools," he said.

Even so, "the upper class has to pay taxes properly so the country can spend on education."

A strong education system is a recurring theme in SyCip's formula for raising economic standards.

"Employees pay proper taxes, while their employers do not, further widening the income gap." Leaders in business and in government should set the examples by paying proper taxes. Because self-declaration of income may not be realistic, a more desirable alternative should be to "heavily tax evidences of wealth: houses, cars, travel, golf and sports clubs

ECONOMIC/ B2-3

Guide to five stages of corporate morality

By Karen V. de Asis
Contributor

IN recent years, quite a number of companies realize that integrating moral judgment and social responsibility into business policies and practice, is becoming the best long-term business strategy.

In many cases, this has even provided organizations a competitive advantage. However, not many are familiar with a conceptual model indicating that there are different stages of corporate morality based on ethical behavior.

GROWING YOUR BUSINESS

University of Southern Mississippi marketing professors Eric Reidenbach and Donald P. Robin in a seminal literature in business ethics argue that an organization's business strategy and behavior including marketing practices reveals the true nature of a company's stage of morality.

Their framework, so called the Conceptual Model of Corporate Moral Development, identifies five stages of corporate moral development that include the amoral organization (stage one), legislative organization (stage two), responsive organization (stage three), emergent ethical organization (stage four), and the ethical organization (stage five).

Reidenbach and Robin maintain that a company's level of morality is shaped by its culture and work climate, changes in the macro-environment, the company's vision and mission as well as the values of its founders, board of directors and ranking officers. A key element in the organization's culture is the company's vision and mission that clearly spells out top management's directions when it comes to economic goals (profitability) or social goals (ethical mission for the good of society).

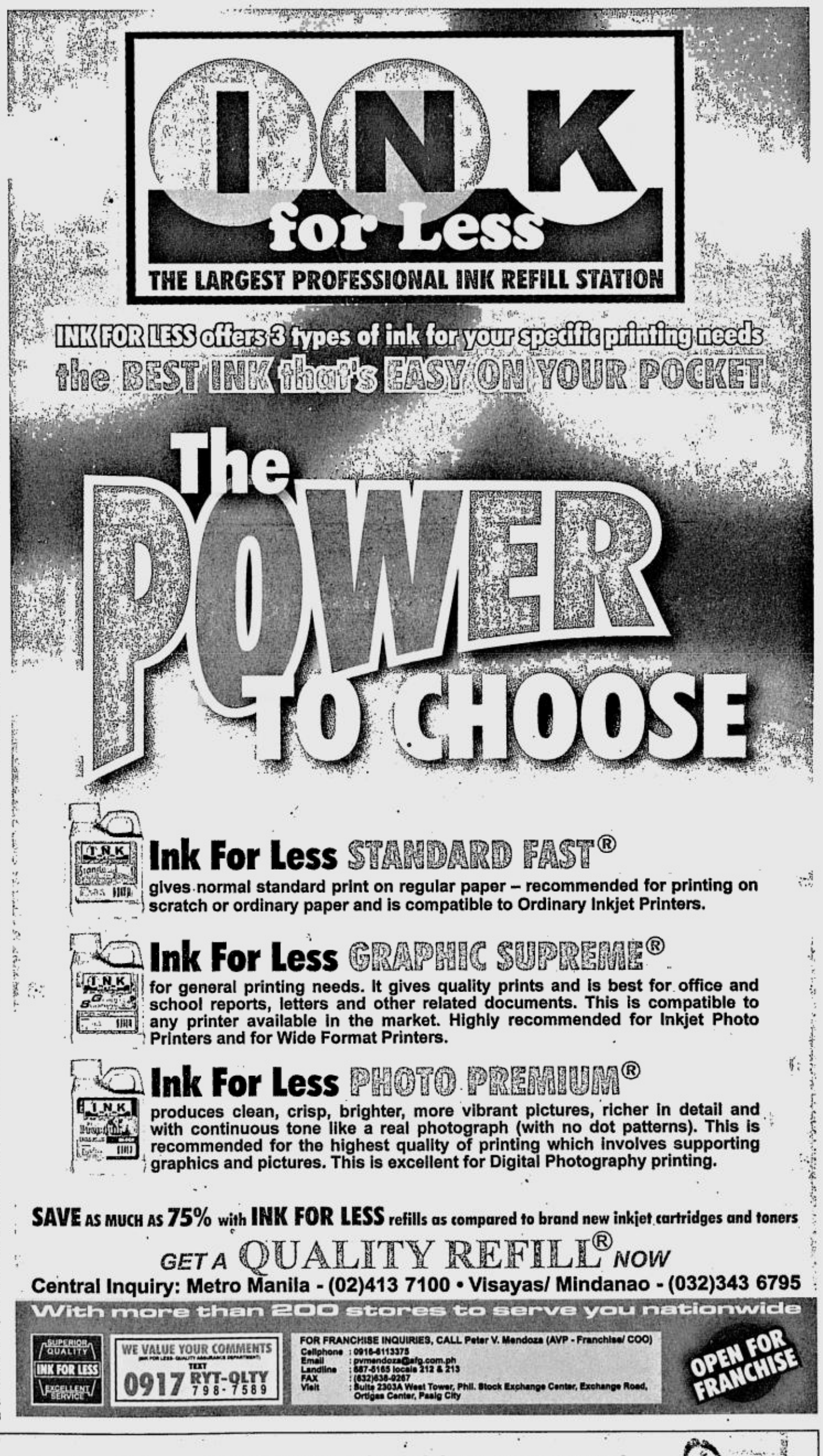
Following is Reidenbach and Robin's model of corporate moral development and the writer's illustrative examples of the different stages.

Stage 1: Amoral organization

The amoral company strongly believes that businesses exist purely for profit and there are costs to doing business including being mired in an unethical situation, that is, if caught. Related to this, amoral companies believe that if one is not caught, one cannot be judged to be unethical. These organizations subscribe to the maxims "everybody does it anyway," and "there's no way anyone will ever find out." Economic values like productivity and profitability take precedence at all costs. Any evidence of ethical concern is a mere after the fact, often only when faced with public outcry.

Owners are the principal stakeholders and their interests override everyone. Such was the case with Ozone Disco Pub in Quezon City that was gutted down in a fire last March 18, 1996, killing 162 people and leaving 104 others severely burned or injured. The casualties were predominantly teenagers celebrating their graduation from high school attracted by the disco's 50-percent Monday discount on cover charge and drinks. Ozone with its 50-sq.m. dance floor carried a permit for 50 patrons but on the night of the tragedy at least 350 people patronized the pub. The

GUIDE/ B2-3



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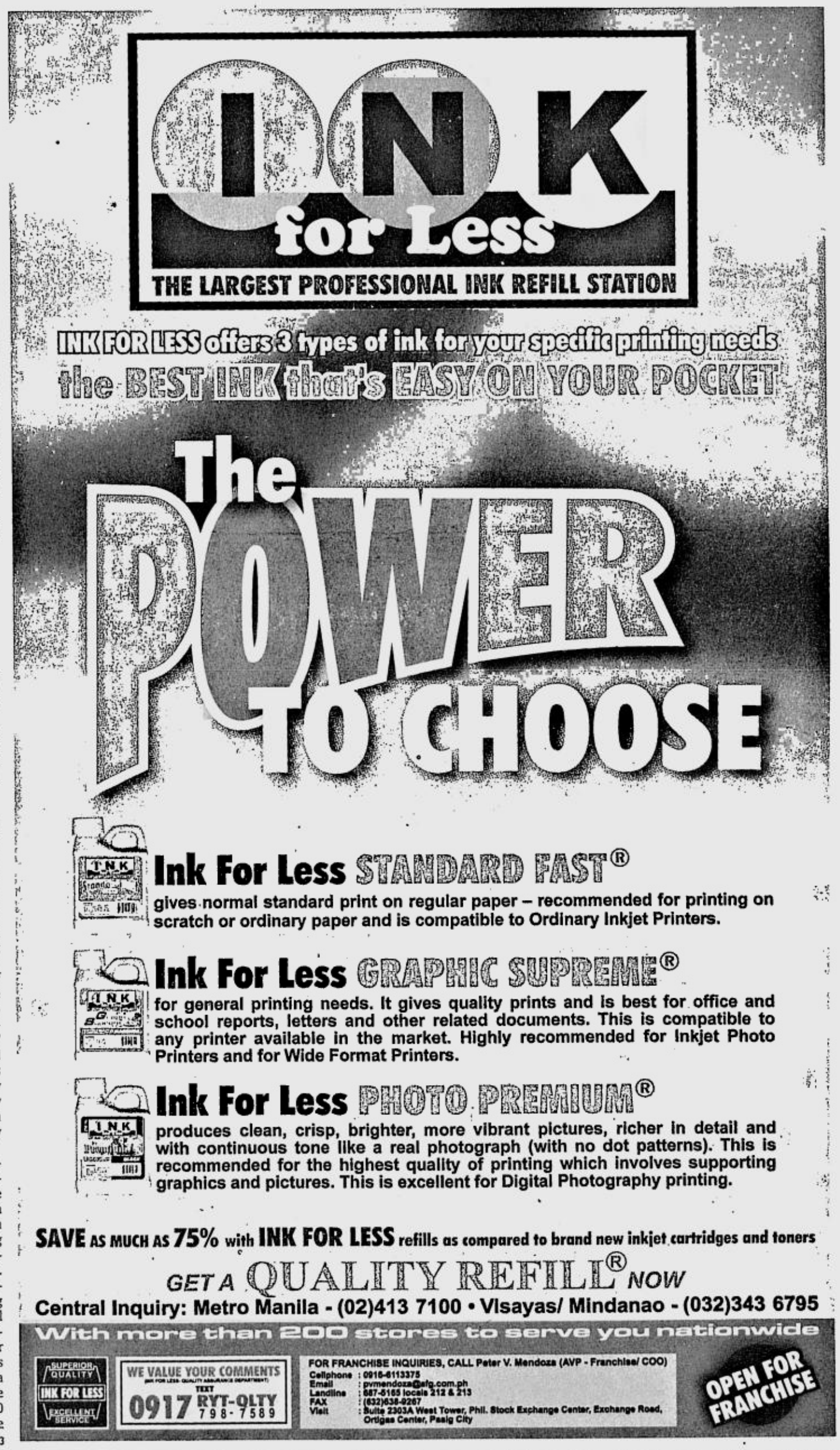

Co-branding as selling tool

AS in most human endeavors, alliances in business are also important in contributing to a successful and progressive operation, as well as launching new products and enticing consumers to patronize and remain loyal to a brand.

Card companies and issuers are now being encouraged to go into co-branding because of the tremendous opportunities for growth that it presents.

The MasterCard Advisors, the professional services business unit of MasterCard International, presented an extensive study on the methods and benefits that make this a global best practice area.

"We're seeing a resurgence of co-branded credit cards and customer-specific marketing instead of the traditional mass marketing techniques," explained Ajay Bhalla, senior vice president and general manager of MasterCard in Southeast Asia. "Companies who go into this practice are realizing better growth and greater understanding of consumer needs, which leads to loyalty and greater usage."

Opportunities for growth are greater in the Asia-Pacific region, based on studies by MasterCard Advisors that show a conservative spending habit and a slowdown on credit card usage especially in Southeast Asia. Compared to the US gross purchase volume, which has already reached more than $840 billion for 2003, that for the Asia-Pacific is only more than half, at $472 billion.

Jay Singer, vice president, MasterCard Hong Kong, said that "consumers are becoming more sophisticated and niche; they are interested in enriching experiences rather than simply owning things. Co-brand programs, with their strong core features, compelling reward platforms, and relevance to consumer lifestyles and spending preferences, serve as the foundation of a vital strategy."

Co-brand programs offer a way for bank card issuers to create, as it were, an exclusive angle, be it with an airline, a hotel, a retail establishment, the media, or a manufacturer, and distinguish themselves from other card-based services.

"In the near future, we're predicting that co-branded cards will surge to the forefront of card payment services. Because of the abundant marketing opportunities involved, this practice will be even more appealing to both partners rather than large, mass-based programs," says Singer.

Anatomy of an anomalous bid

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Manuel A. Alcuaz Jr.

THE SUPREME Court decision voiding Comelec's contract with Mega Pacific Consortium or Mega Pacific e-Solutions give us cause to rejoice.

The Supreme Court has struck a powerful blow for the rule of law and against corruption.

Fighting corruption in this country is a difficult and usually a thankless job. A tennis-playing lawyer friend of mine was laughing at me for writing articles against the Comelec bidding and eventually filing the TRO before the Supreme Court.

Having won this small yet important case against graft and corruption we should not just rejoice and celebrate. We should fight and ultimately defeat this monster that has raped our country in the past and threatens the present and future of our country.

Anomalous bidding procedure

Anomalous bids are usually cooked up by officials or managers who have influence over a procurement decision in order to gain something for themselves or to favor friends and relations.

Usually it starts by establishing contact with a vendor who would provide our corrupt officials with certain benefits, usually a lot of money.

The conniving parties will then concoct bid specifications that will favor the corrupt bidder and eliminate other bidders.

The bid will be conducted in a rush; very little time will be left between the invitation to bid and the date of bidding.

Other bidders will not have sufficient time to come up with a good proposal. The name of the game is eliminate the competition.

Once the bids are in, the other bidders have been eliminated, then the decision makers loosen the requirements to suit their preferred vendor. If anyone complains after the award, he is automatically branded as a losing bidder.

Was automation bid anomalous?

This is a matter that will eventually be determined by the judicial system, although the Supreme Court has already identified clear reasons why the Comelec contract with Mega Pacific is void.

We can start with the fact that some Comelec commissioners were in Korea in November 2002, months before the bid, in an unofficial mission. This is strange and highly suspicious. It would have been more natural for them to be tourists in Singapore, Bali or Bangkok.

Arbitrary pass or fail criteria placed by Comelec, without consulting with the advisory council as provided by RA 8436, eliminated most potential bidders.

In the bid for ACMs (automated counting machines), the following criteria drove away many potential bidders:

1. The counting machines should have been used in at least one political exercise with at least 20 million votes.

2. Must have an accuracy rating of 99.9995 percent.

It is interesting that Mega Pacific's subcontractors SK C&C Co. Ltd. of South Korea had used its ACM machines in two Korean national elections with slightly more than 20 million voters.

This arbitrary requirement eliminated most other vendors because:

1. Many European countries do not have more than 20 million voters. Therefore, election system vendors from those countries did not pass the 20 million votes in one election arbitrary (and stumbling block) criteria.

2. Even large countries like Japan and the United States vote by state (California, the biggest US state, has less than 20 million registered voters).

There is strong reason to say that this requirement was arbitrary and designed to eliminate other vendors because each of the machines will not count more than 20,000 votes.

Therefore, it does not matter whether the machines were used in a 20,000 voter or 20 million voter election.

What the Comelec really needed was a vendor that has had experience in several large elections with millions of voters.

Not necessarily 20 million voters.

The 99.9995 percent accuracy requirement is impossible to achieve based on Comelec's own bid specs on ballot marking. In fact it is almost impossible to test 99.9995 percent accuracy which means that the machine should have one error in reading 200,000 marks.

If test ballots have 20 marks, you must read 10,000 ballots and have only one error.

But if a machine read 10,000 ballots with no error, can one be sure that reading the next 10,000 ballots will not produce more than one error?

I am not bothered by the fact that the vendor machines could not meet the 99.9995 percent accuracy requirement.

I am bothered by the fact that this very high requirement may have discouraged honest bidders. And the Comelec subsequently lowered the accuracy requirement to technically qualify their preferred bidder.

The Comelec should have set a lower accuracy requirement like 99.95 percent and made sure that it was strictly adhered to. Quality is not determined in absolute terms. It is measured in terms of what is required to do the job. And one error in 2,000 marks would be acceptable and could have allowed the Comelec to acquire the most cost-effective machines.

Buying a Mercedes SUV to transport ballot boxes is stupid when an AUV can do the job!

A broader perspective

Of concern beyond the Comelec bids are the critical flaws in RA 9184 or the Procurement Reform Law. That will make it easy for other agencies to conduct anomalous bids to favor bidders who are more than willing to bribe generously.

Congress speculated that the law would save the government at least P22 billion. Unfortunately, this will not be the result. As we have observed in the Comelec bids.

While hoped for savings will not materialize, the government will end up acquiring a lot of inferior goods, projects and systems.

Section 32 of the law states: For the procurement of goods and infrastructure projects, the BAC shall evaluate the financial component of the bids. The bids that passed the preliminary examination shall be ranked from lowest to highest in terms of their corresponding calculated prices.

The bid with the lowest calculated price shall be referred as the "Lowest Calculated Bid."

The law requires that the winner should be the bidder with the "Lowest Calculated Bid."

Unfortunately, the law no longer requires that there should be at least three qualified bidders. A bid with only one qualified bidder is a valid bid.

The law does not allow evaluation of bidders according to criteria other than cost. It does not allow assigning value point to criteria such as experience, reliability, accuracy, technology, etc.

Instead, the law provides for mandatory "pass or fail" criteria to screen out bids that would not meet the needs of the project being bidded.

Unfortunately, these "pass or fail" criteria can also be used to eliminate honest bidders who could provide government more cost effective solutions but who do not offer to share their revenues with unscrupulous government officials and influence peddlers.

Unfortunately, "mandatory" requirements are in effect relative.

Those who are close to the agency just lie through their teeth (or word processors). Unfortunately, honest bidders who could offer bids more advantageous to government are discouraged from participating. Or eliminated by arbitrary pass or fail requirements.

In the Comelec Modernization Project, 57 prospective bidders bought bid documents.

But only one or two bidders qualified for each of the three bid phases.

The P22 billion in savings that Congress had hoped for could have come from bidders that were discouraged or eliminated by arbitrary and/or useless mandatory requirements.

After eliminating most potential bidders with arbitrary criteria designed to favor the preferred bidders, the bidding agency may still find that some criteria may not be met by their bid partners. This is when all of a sudden the remaining mandatory requirements are completely ignored or changed.

This is what we brought to the attention of the Supreme Court. The court then ruled that the Mega Pacific contract was void.

We have already shown what Comelec did in the bid for automated voting machines.

The same was done in the bid for the voters validation system. The pass or fail requirements were set so that only the preferred bidder qualified.

When an agency can eliminate honest bidders and only qualify their preferred bidder, how does the government save money?

Let us expeditiously bring the crooks to justice and have Congress reform the flawed Procurement Reform Law.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is co-chair of the MAP ICT Committee@Work and president of Systems Sciences Consult Inc. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Steel industry to save up to P2 billion annually at Harbour Centre Port Terminal

The steel industry stands to save between P1 to P2 billion annually if pilferage and theft can be eliminated when steel products are shipped into the country.

Every year, a total of 2.5 million metric tons of steel imports are shipped to Manila. Of this volume, between 1% to 5% are lost due to pilferage, theft and mishandling of goods. This volume amounts to as much as P2 billion in losses each year.

According to Michael Romero incidents of theft and pilferage occur mostly at the port terminal, where goods are unloaded from cargo vessels. "Tighter security and efficiency in handling of shipment are needed in order to eliminate losses due to pilferage and mishandling of shipment," he adds.

Steel coils and billets being handled by Harbour Centre Port.

Romero is CEO of Harbour Centre Port Terminal, the newest, most modern and efficient port terminal in Manila.

The only private commercial seaport in the port district of Manila, Harbour Centre boasts of tight security system and superior port facilities that guarantee zero pilferage for steel shipments.

Harbour Centre's high-level security system begins at the port's entry and exit points. Vehicles entering and leaving the port are carefully monitored. Security personnel are strategically positioned all over the port facilities to guard against theft, pilferage and other suspicious activities.

Harbour Centre also boasts of an expansive, 15-hectare back up area where cargoes up to 6 TEUs high can be properly stacked, ensuring against misplaced or lost cargoes. Efficient arrastre and stevedoring services are also available.

Unloading and dispatch of cargoes are supervised by the port's experienced personnel who are trained in providing honest and straightforward services, so steel shipment entering and leaving the port remain intact. No red tape and corruption guaranteed!

With its tight security system and efficient cargo handling system, Harbour Centre guarantees between P1 to P2 billion in savings for steel importers.

The amount, explains Romero, is just the tip of the iceberg. Harbour Centre's superior facilities, design, modern equipment and deep berthing drafts reduce turnaround by as much as 50%.

The port's working apron, measuring 30 meters wide by 865 lineal meters (north port) and 20 meters by 250 lineal meters (south port), can accommodate up to 12 vessels at any given time. Spacious and well-designed, its port terminal can handle up to 3 million tons of breakbulk cargoes and up to 400,000 TEU's of domestic containers.

What's more, Harbour Centre is the only seaport in the country with three superhighway channels, so cargoes are dispatched faster, in a much more efficient manner!

Complementing its superior facilities are ample port equipment, including an 80-ton heavy-lift capacity Gottwald Harbour Mobile Crane, as well as 15, 12, 10, 8, 5 and 3-ton forklifts, among other equipment.

Customers also enjoy additional savings through a rebate program based on the frequency and volume of their shipment.

Many local companies have experienced the advantages of shipping with Harbour Centre. Companies like Asian Globe and DSL, which had to contend with pilferage in the past, now receive their steel shipment intact. Another Harbour Centre client, Cathay Steel has reduced turn around time for its steel shipment from 14 days to 2.5 days.

"We see ourselves as partners of our clients, helping them achieve a higher level of efficiency and savings. And we hope to be able to do this for other companies in various industries as well," adds Romero.

"Our people are well-trained in accommodating ships from various parts of the world," says Romero, himself a candidate for Ph.D. in Business Administration. "We are experienced in servicing vessels from Brazil, North America, Australia, Russia and from various countries worldwide."

Aside from the steel, Harbour Centre also caters to other **Breakbulk cargoes such as logs, lumber cement, bagged rice, corn, heavy equipment, bagged cement and cars/ automobiles; Bulk cargoes such as oil, petroleum, grains, wheat, flour, cement, silica and gympsum; Livestock products like cattle, pigs, horses and lamb; as well as Containerized (domestic carriers) and RORO (roll on, roll off) shipment.**

With the benefits, advantages and expertise that it offers, Harbour Centre port terminal is changing the face of shipping, not just for the steel business but for a host of other industries as well.

HARBOUR CENTRE'S UNIQUE ADVANTAGES
- Guaranteed faster and more efficient cargo discharging and handling services
- Guaranteed faster vessel/shipping turnaround
- Guaranteed no pilferage
- Guaranteed no hidden costs
- Guaranteed no red tape
- Guaranteed no corruption

SUPERIOR PORT FACILITIES AND AMENITIES
- Two (2) Key Port Facilities- Harbour Centre's North and South Port can hold up to 12 vessels at a time
- North Port: 865 lineal meters of berthing capacity which can hold up to 8 vessels at a time
- South Port: 250 lineal meters of berthing capacity which can hold up to 4 vessels at a time
- Berthing Walls are supported by 27-meter long steel sheet piles from Luxembourg, while reclamation works were done by Jan de Nul of Belgium using the most advanced technologies in reclamation and dredging.
- Berthing Drafts: from -10 m.l.l.w to -11.5 m.l.l.w
- Working Apron: 1) North Port 30 meters wide by 865 lineal meter-long and; b) South Port 20 meters wide by 250 lineal meters long
- Back-up Area: 15 hectares with a stacking capacity of up to 6 TEU's high and can withstand up to 9,000 PSI in strength
- The only seaport with 3 superhighway channels of -10 meters to -11.5 meters in depth and 7 to 14 kilometers in length.

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Guide to five stages of corporate morality

From page B2-1

disco had one fire exit unobtrusively located in the VIP room and inner walls lined with low-cost combustible soundproof materials. Ironically, the pub was originally allowed to be built as a residence, but was eventually constructed as a commercial establishment with the permission of corrupt Quezon City hall officials.

The scandalous collapse of Texan energy giant Enron made real by the eventual filing of Chapter 11 bankruptcy on Dec. 2, 2001 has spurred worldwide interests on corporate governance. Enron, at its height boasted over 21,000 employees and subsidiaries in over 40 countries. It was recognized by Fortune magazine as the Most Innovative Company in America for six successive years. Public perception was fueled by Enron's marketing efforts that portrayed an image of a good corporate citizen supporting social and environmental projects, providing employee welfare and ironically, anti-corruption and bribery policies. Over the years, Enron projected itself as a highly profitable, growing company until the bubble burst in 2001 when its profit statements revealed that it was nowhere profitable and substantial debts had been skillfully hidden so as not to reflect the true state of the company. Through it all, Enron's high level officers including former CEO Jeffrey K. Skilling, ex-chief financial officer Andrew S. Fastow and 27 other Enron executives—all charged in a civil legislation—must have lived by the dictums "they'll never know," "we won't get caught" and "there's no way anyone will ever find out," aptly describing the rule of conduct of amoral organizations.

Stage 2: Legalistic organization

Legalistic corporations comply and adhere to the letter of the law and not the spirit of the law. Decisions are based on the legality of an action, without room for its morality. In cases of uncertainty, the dictum is to "have the lawyers check it out." While profitability remains the key concern, this must be derived from legal ways and means, a belief that makes it a notch higher than stage one. Like stage one, legalistic organizations consider only the owner's interests.

Bridgestone/Firestone's announcement in 2001 of the recall of its 15-inch Wilderness AT, radial ATX and ATX II tires on Ford Explorers came after the federal agency National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) launched an official enquiry into more than 100 deaths resulting from car crashes linked to faulty tires. The recall numbered no less than 6.5 million Firestone tires and was estimated to cost the company some $350 million. Prior to 2000, Firestone had been receiving complaints from various groups that included Ford and Firestone employees and management, Arizona state officials, plaintiff attorneys in personal injury cases concerning Firestone tire treads coming apart when driven at high speed causing the Ford Explorers to roll over. When pressed, Firestone had always cited tire maintenance as the cause of the problem. Only when a Texan television show carried an exposé and the NHTSA eventually mounted a serious investigation and finally ruled that "Firestone tires were faulty and could under certain conditions cause vehicles to roll over," did Firestone bow to legal pressures resulting in the recall of tires.

Stage 3: Responsive organization

Responsive companies begin to understand the importance of striking a balance between economic and social values, recognizing social responsibility and doing what is right.

However, doing right is a means to an end and not the overriding business principle.

On Feb. 2, 1998, Cebu Pacific Air Flight 387 slammed down the mountainside of Mt. Sumagaya killing all 104 passengers. Immediately, search and rescue efforts were mounted. Likewise, half of the entire staff volunteered to be temporarily assigned in Southern Cagayan de Oro to comfort the victims' families and assist in the search. In their darkest hours of waiting for body bags and body parts, each family was assigned a Cebu Pacific employee as a crutch to attend to their every need. Everything was speedily arranged including insurance and free air travel to visit the dead every Feb. 2 and Nov. 1. In the end, not one of the victims' families sued the airline or the aircraft manufacturer.

Stage 4: Emergent ethical organization

At this stage, the management actively pursues a greater balance between profits and ethics. However, ethics management may not be fully integrated in the mainstream business but remain to be ad hoc endeavors.

The Metrobank Foundation Inc. is the philanthropic arm of the Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. established in Jan. 8, 1979 to promote various social development projects in education, visual arts, civil service and healthcare. Among its most programs include Access (Assistance for the Completion of College Education for Superior Students), Young Painters Annual and the foundation's Outstanding Teachers.

Media frontrunner ABS-CBN's socio-civic arm, ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. established in 1989 has been in the forefront of a rescue and rehabilitation program for abused children called Bantay Bata 163. Another program is the Bantay Kalikasan fostering projects that promote clean air like the Adopt a Tree/Adopt A Hectare project, Bantay Basura and Bantay Baterya.

An advanced model of Stage 4 is McDonalds Corp., which is now actively pursuing integrating social responsibility into its mainstream value chain. Among McDonald's initiatives include increasing investments in recycled packaging materials, collaboration with Conservation International to promote conservation and sustainable agriculture and introduction of healthy lifestyle menu options.

Stage 5: Ethical organization

Stage Five represents mainstream, organization-wide acceptance of ethical values that guide each employee's behavior and decision. Needless to say, there is a balance between profits and ethics. Body Shop, established in 1976 by Anita and Gordon Roddick, has fully adopted social and environmental responsibility ever since its inception as an integral part of their business philosophy, practice, products and merchandise. Explicit in their mission are the company's principles against animal testing, support of community trade, protection of Planet Earth, respect for individualism and human rights. For example, as part of its community trade program, Body Shop's brand of cosmetic and personal toiletries sources its organic honey and beeswax from beekeeper villages in Zambia and Babassu oil from women cooperatives in Namibia.

Reidenbach and Robin maintain that an organization can begin their life at any of the five stages, as research indicates that the level of morality need not be a sequential process. Nonetheless, amoral companies often remain at stage one unless a massive top-down and cultural change takes place. Different strategic business units (SBUs) within a complex organization may have different levels of morality particularly if different sub-cultures exist. However, if one formal culture prevails across all SBUs then there can be only one level of morality for the entire organization. A company may regress to a lower stage when economic values take precedence at all costs over social values or where mergers and acquisitions happen and the newly formed organization is likely to be more amoral in nature.

Finally, there is no time frame behind each stage of the company's morality. The length of stay in a particular stage is dependent on the factors that influence the company's culture and work climate.

(The writer is a marketing consultant and 2003 Agora Awardee for Marketing Excellence In Education teaching Marketing Management and Brand Management at the De La Salle Professional School's Graduate School of Business with email address at kdeasis@skyinet.net)

Economic ...

From page B2-1

and even weddings," and other evidence of conspicuous consumption.

Striking a blow for the bottom group's creditworthiness, SyCip said he was greatly bothered by the 1,000 percent per annum interest rate they pay for borrowings from about 20,000 Indians in "the 5/6 business," by which the P5 borrowed is paid at P6, a week later.

The fault does not lie with the Indian financiers, but "with the slow development of our microfinance banks."

Borrowings from those banks show that the poor have low default rates of only 2 or 3 percent, demonstrating that "the poor are more credit-worthy than the rich."

More funds should be poured into these lending institutions, as "it is impossible to get out of poverty paying interest rates of 1,000 percent a year."

On overseas workers, he observes that "they bring in the much-needed foreign exchange, while the upper income groups take out the funds."

Reverting to his theme, SyCip said that models in the past were always the US and rich European countries. But we should be learning instead from neighboring developing nations.

"We have excessive freedom," like Western democratic models, "yet have no freedom from hunger and want. The whole thing is education," he said.

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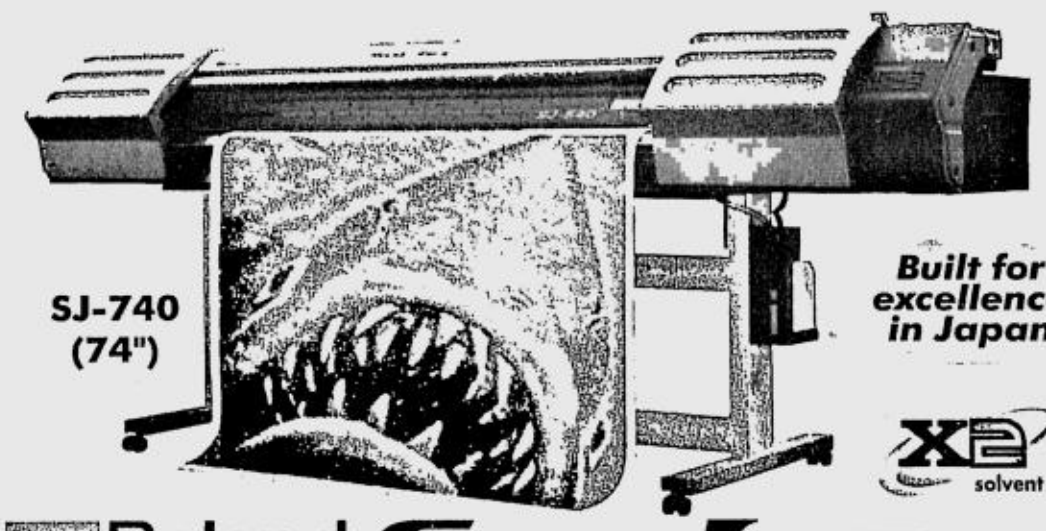

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MOVEMENT

Deutsche Bank appoints new exec

DEUTSCHE Bank AG announced the appointment of Martin L Sqyuia as vice president/head of debt capital markets and corporate coverage for Manila.

In this capacity, Syquia will lead Deutsche Bank Group's debt origination as well as corporate coverage business in the Philippines.

Martin Syquia previously worked at Barclays Capital in Hong Kong, after completing his Master of Science degree in Industrial Administration with the Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh in 1997.

He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree, Major in Management Engineering, from the Ateneo De Manila University in 1991.

Enrico S. Cruz, the chief country officer and head of global markets of Deutsche Bank AG, Manila, said: "I am extremely pleased to have Martin on board and this will further strengthen our presence in the Philippines."

Deutsche Bank ranks among the global leaders in corporate banking and securities, transaction banking, asset management and private wealth management.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Actors warn of riots if FPJ disqualified

Accuse Malacañang of dirty tricks to stop 'Da King's' presidential bid

By Marinel C. Cruz

MALACAÑANG is employing crude tactics in discrediting presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. and might drive his supporters into staging civil actions.

This is how movie director Carlito Siguion-Reyna described the present scenario in connection with moves to prevent Poe from running for the presidency, including a petition filed against the action star questioning his citizenship.

Siguion-Reyna is a member of "Artista para kay FPJ," which is composed of actors, directors, stunt men, crew members, cameramen, legmen and other members of the entertainment industry, supporting the candidacy of Poe, who is popularly known as FPJ.

The director said it is possible that the Supreme Court would rule in favor of lawyer Andresito Fornier, who alleged that Poe is not a natural-born Filipino and is ineligible to run for President.

Disappearing walls

"It could happen," said Siguion-Reyna, referring to the Supreme Court, which still has to rule on the case.

"Developments in the last few months prove that the walls separating the branches of government are starting to disappear. *Garapalan na kasi ang ginagawa ng* Malacañang to discredit FPJ (Malacañang has already resorted to crude tactics to discredit FPJ)."

"If that happens, the people would riot," said actor Richard Gomez, chair of "Artista para kay FPJ. "It is possible that FPJ supporters would go out to the streets again. We don't want to create chaos."

On Friday, the Commission on Elections cleared the way for Poe to run for president after it dismissed the motion for reconsideration filed by Fornier against him "for lack of merit."

But Fornier had said he is determined to bring the case up to the Supreme Court this week.

Siguion-Reyna said that people are now more vigilant after a Senate probe committee had ruled that the documents Fornier filed before the Comelec had been falsified.

"Based on my observation, people who are now in power should be careful before they start manipulating and fooling the people again," he told INQUIRER Entertainment last week.

At the Senate hearing on Poe's citizenship case last January, three employees of the National Archives claimed that their chief, Director Ricardo Manapat, had tampered with documents pertinent to Poe's disqualification case.

Fornier, using the said documents, maintained that Poe was an illegitimate son of Allan Fernando Poe and American Bessie Kelley because the older Poe was already married to a woman named Paulita Gomez before he married Kelley.

Dangerous

Since Poe is an illegitimate son, his citizenship, based on past court decisions, should be American, Fornier had said. The lawyer had also argued that Poe's father was a Spanish citizen since Poe's grandparents were Spaniards.

"People might protest. The government would not want to deal with civil action like that. It's dangerous. We don't want trouble," warned Gomez.

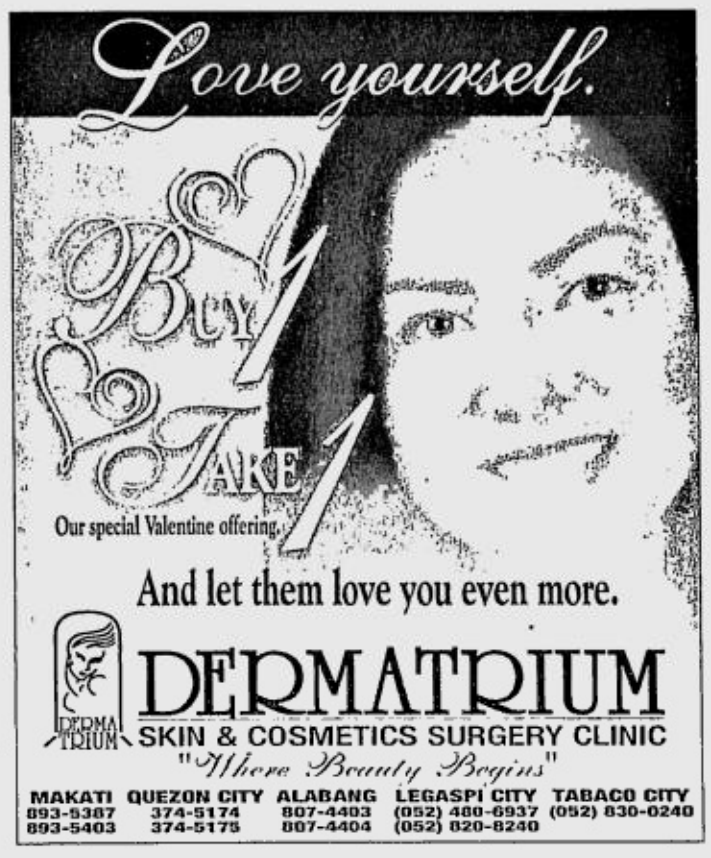
But actor Eddie Garcia is confident that Poe would not allow his supporters to resort to violence.

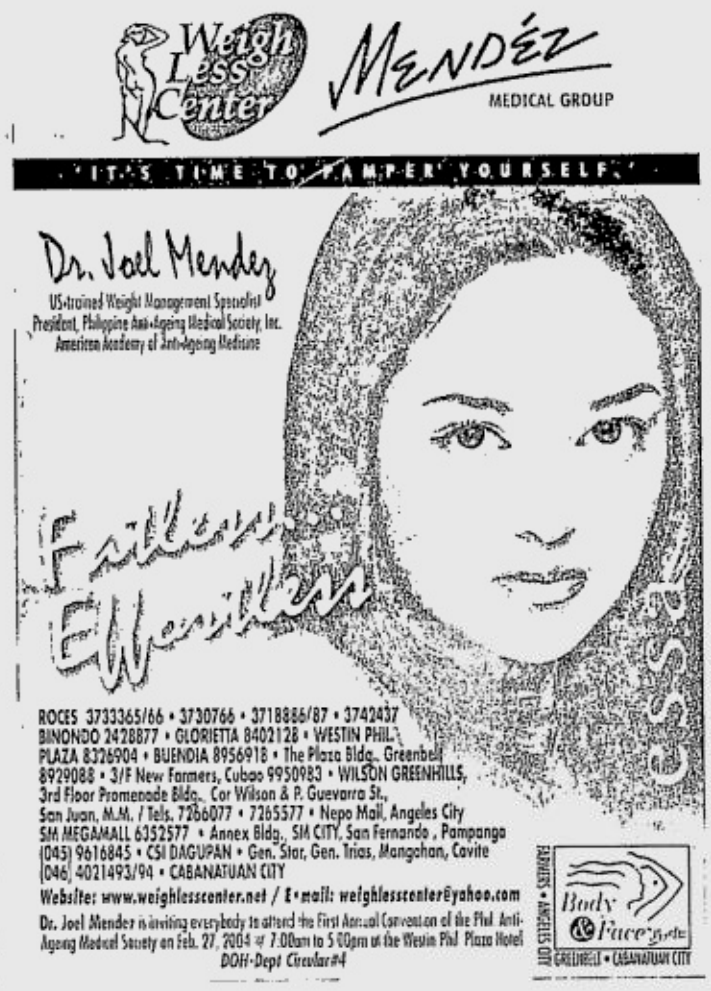
"There will be no one going out to the streets. FPJ won't allow that," he stressed.

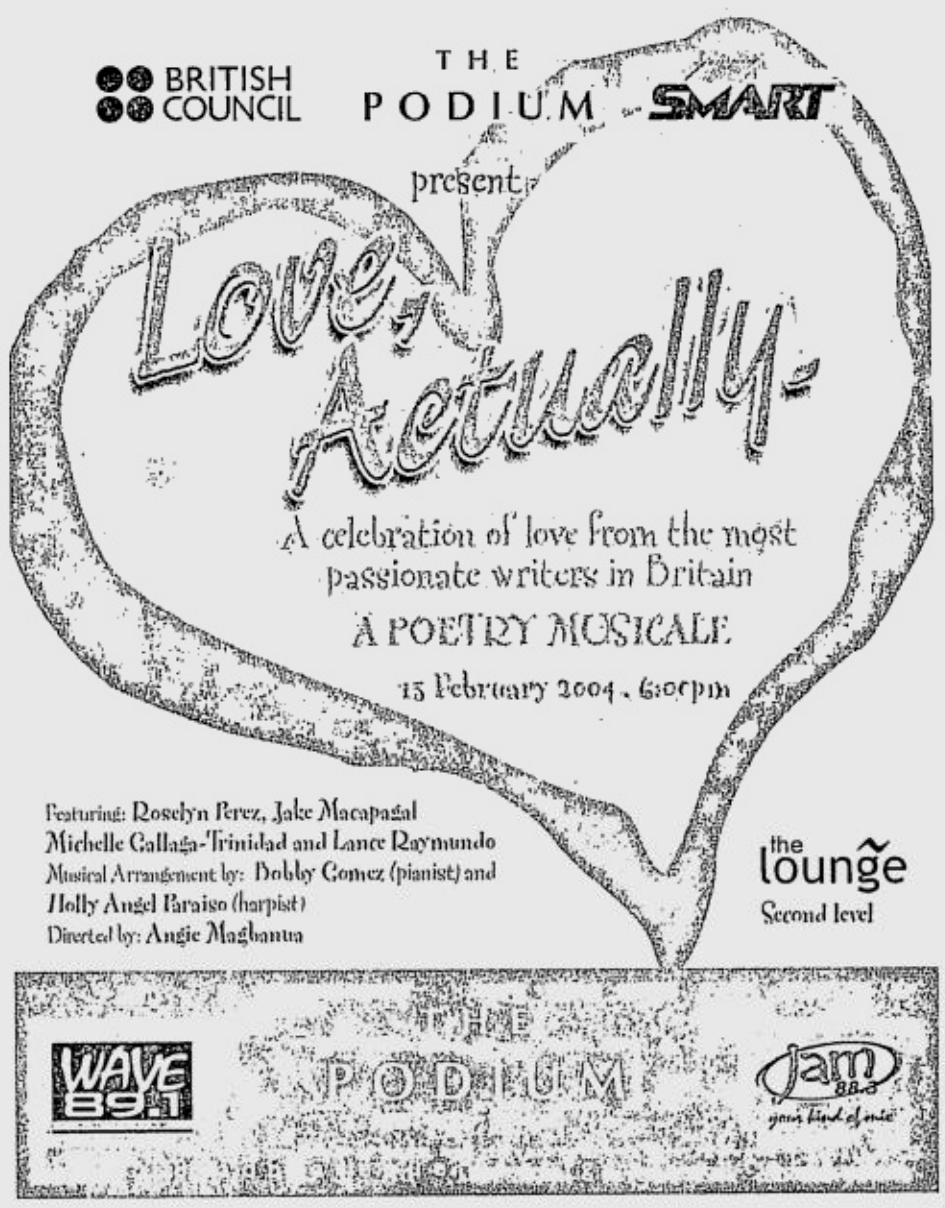
"The Comelec has already decided in favor of FPJ. I'm sure the Supreme Court would look at (the issue) in the same light."

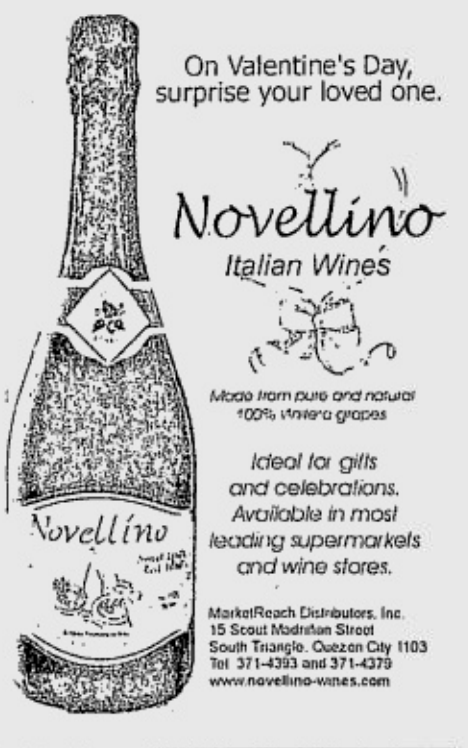
National Artist for film Eddie Romero said people who say that Poe lacks the qualification to be president do not know the real person.

ACTORS/C3









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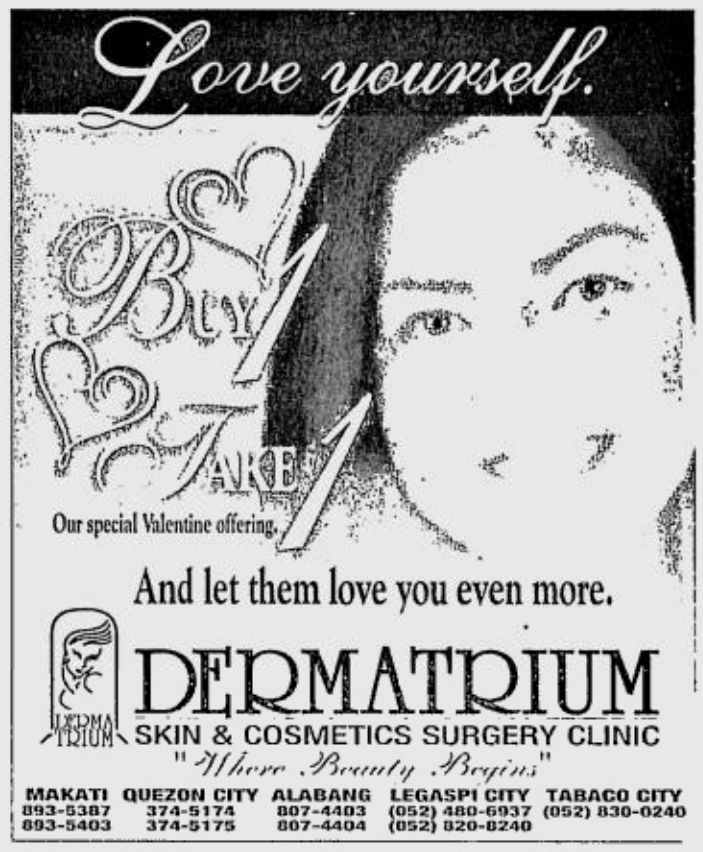
But actor Eddie Garcia is confident that Poe would not allow his supporters to resort to violence.

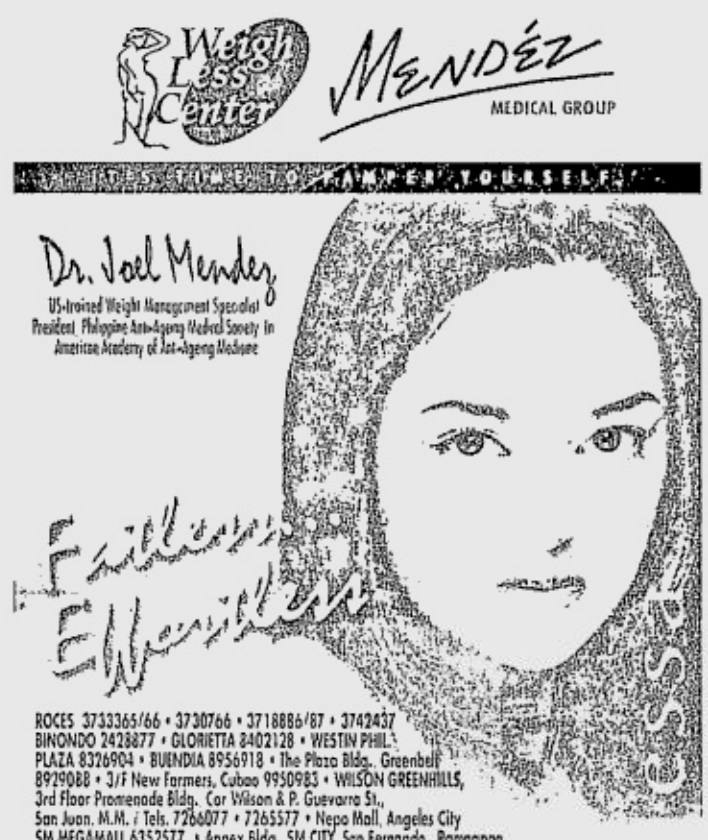
"There will be no one going out to the streets. FPJ won't allow that," he stressed.

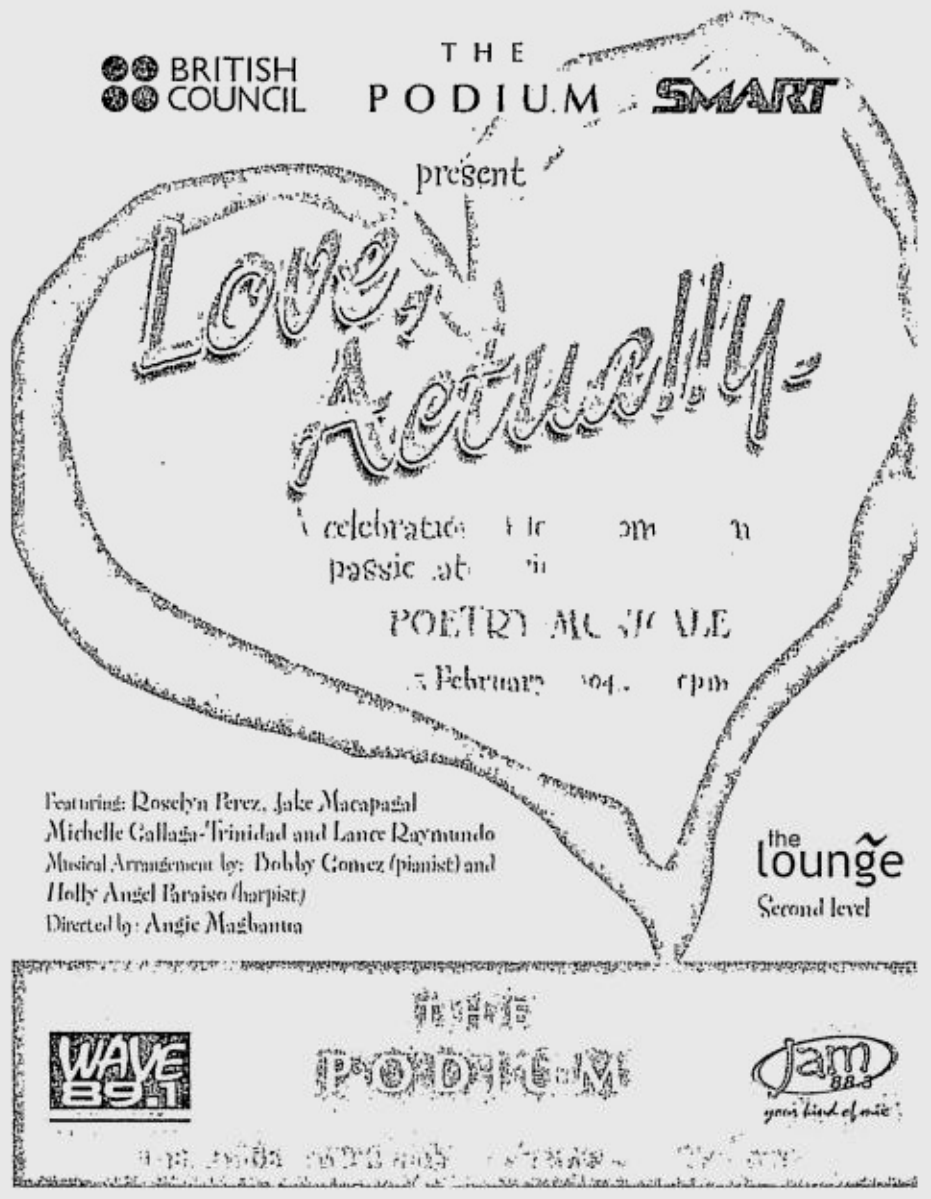
"The Comelec has already decided in favor of FPJ. I'm sure the Supreme Court would look at (the issue) in the same light."

National Artist for film Eddie Romero said people who say that Poe lacks the qualification to be president do not know the real person.

ACTORS/C3







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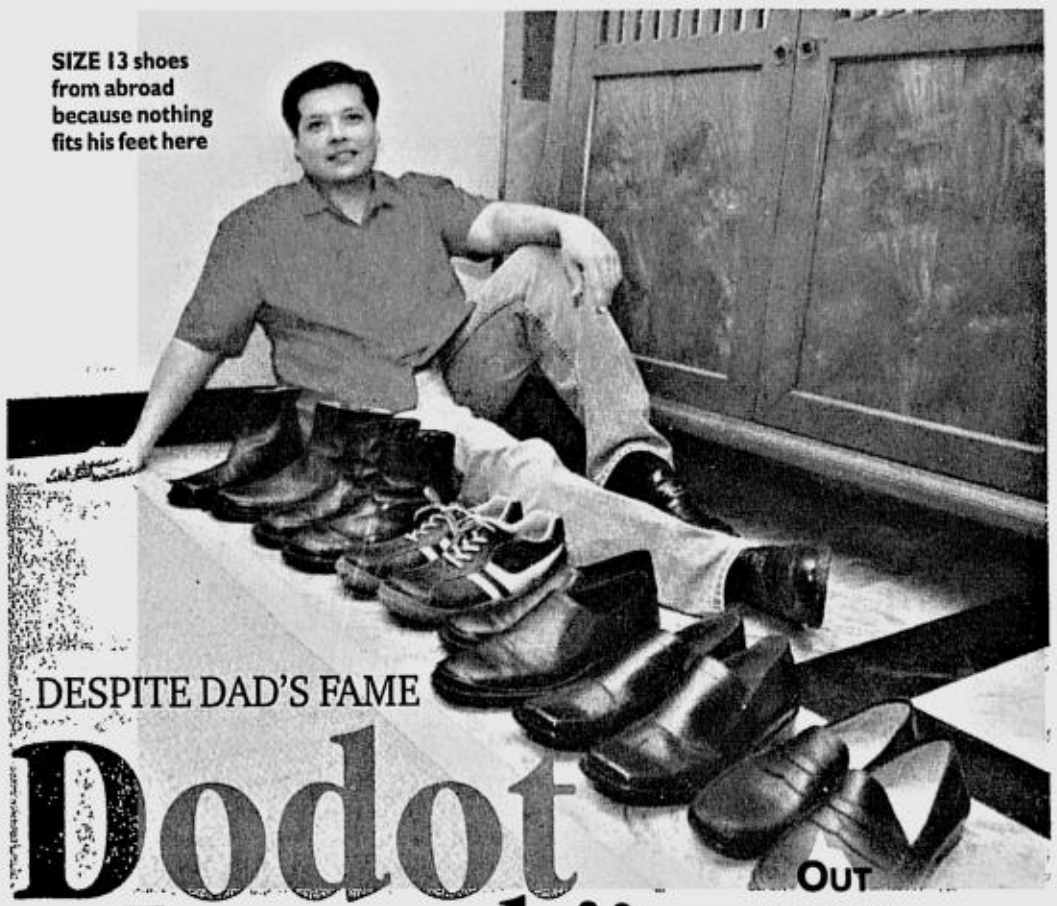


SIZE 13 shoes from abroad because nothing fits his feet here

DESPITE DAD'S FAME

Dodot Jaworski's happy childhood

OUT OF THE CLOSET

THE SHIRT Dodot is wearing and another one he is holding are only two of the five shirts in the same style that he owns. The others are in yellow, white and gray.

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

THE BEST moments of his childhood were the ones he had spent on road trips with his family, according to Robert Vincent Jude Jaworski Jr.

With nostalgia in his voice, Sen. Robert Jaworski's second child, Dodot, recalls that when he was growing up, his family always went out of town every weekend and spent quality time together.

"We became very close. If you're on an out-of-town trip, there are hardly any interruptions. If you're here, people will ask you out. But if you're out of town, you and your family are secluded (from other people) so you become very close," Dodot explains.

He recounts he was always the one to be asked to get down from their car when there was something to buy from roadside stores or markets that they would pass during their trips.

"*Hindi pwedeng* daddy *ko kasi dudumugin siya ng mga tao* (My daddy couldn't be the one to do it because people might mob him)," says the eldest son in a brood of four.

His father is no other than basketball legend-turned-senator Robert Jaworski.

Although the older Jaworski got superstar treatment everywhere the family went, his sons Dodot, Ricci, Ryan and Ron maintained a low profile and led ordinary lives.

Dodot remembers that he was allowed to do what the other kids did. He and his brothers always rode their bikes on the street.

"*Para kaming mga batang kalye* (We were like street boys)."

"I enjoyed my childhood," he says contentedly.

Dodot obviously also wants his children to experience the joys of boyhood. He and his wife, Mikee, are the proud parents of Robbie, 4, and Rafael, 2.

"My kids just love the outdoors," says the 32-year-old former basketball player.

"Sometimes, we take them out to the park and just make them run around. We let them climb up the ladder, play see-saw or swing. They love to play!"

A JADE centerpiece is Dodot's symbol for leadership and power.

'It's so hard for me to buy clothes here because I'm big'

As much as possible, Dodot wants his boys to be more involved in physical activities than in watching TV or playing computer games. Instead of giving them robots or toy cars to play with, he and Mikee bought them a mini basketball ring and bikes with training wheels. They are also learning how to swim in their backyard swimming pool, Dodot says.

Asked what his dad had taught him about fatherhood, Dodot readily answers, "My dad is not quite vocal when it comes to telling you how to be a father. But the best lessons I've learned by watching him be a father to me. He's always been very supportive."

Senator Jaworski had taught his eldest son to value his family above all things. Memories of how his father always made time for them no matter how busy he was inspires him to do the same with his kids.

"No matter how tired he was, he still found time to play with us when we were little. He'd even give us back rubs. He was that affectionate. His priority were really his children," Dodot relates.

For six years now, Dodot has been working in the Senate as his father's chief of staff. During the 1998 elections, his father asked for his help in the campaign. At that time, Dodot was himself a councilor in San Juan and was also involved in pro basketball.

"One's dad does not always ask favors from his son. So when he asked me to (help in his campaign), I had to forego my own political ambitions and help him out," says Dodot. "When he won, he named me chief of staff."

But his job in the Senate proved to be too taxing that Dodot eventually had to give up pro basketball and pursue his political dreams instead. That led to his decision to run for Congress as representative of Pasig City.

Although he had already been asked to join politics as early as 2000, Dodot said he had refused the offers because he felt he wasn't ready yet.

"I didn't feel I was ready since I've only been chief of staff at the Senate for two years," he explains. "I was still learning the ropes. But now, after six years of exposure, I think I'm more prepared."

Even if politics could be dirty, Dodot is still determined to seek office so he can help change the country. Although transformation in this country is almost impossible, he says he would give it his best shot.

"Filipinos are used to depending on others for change. When a mistake is committed, they point the finger at somebody else. But I'll do my part and I'll do it well," says Dodot.

FAVORITE Galliani suit: Black and elegant

"If our goal is to fill a bucket (with water) and we are able to contribute four or five drops, I'd be happy. At least we have contributed something instead of just leaving the bucket empty for others to fill."

After sharing his political vision for the country if he gets elected as congressman, Dodot shares the contents of his closet to INQUIRER Entertainment. Here's what's inside Dodot's wardrobe:

Shirts. "I like blue, dark blue. My tailor, Mang Temyong, made this. He has been sewing my dad's and mom's clothes for the longest time. This shirt was made even before I went to the states. If you notice, another shirt has the same design. I was able to get a shirt similar to this, but it was from GAP. Clothes are expensive in the US, so I just had this copied. It came out cheaper. I had one made in red, blue, yellow, white and gray.

"I also like checkered shirts. It's so hard for me to buy clothes here because I'm big. Besides, the styles here are limited. I buy most of my clothes in the US . . . Old Navy . . . Structure . . . Polo Ralph Lauren.

"My favorite T-shirt is Jawo. I used it during the campaign for the 1998 election. But it's still with me."

Suit. "Italian, Galliani. I have lots of suits, but my favorite is the one in black because it's nice and elegant. What's nice with a black suit is that you can match it with any color of tie or any light colored shirts."

Shoes. "I'm wearing my favorite pair of shoes, Bass, size 13. It's impossible for me to find shoes sized 13 here. The only way I can get shoes here is to have them custom-made. So most of my shoes, I get from abroad, too.

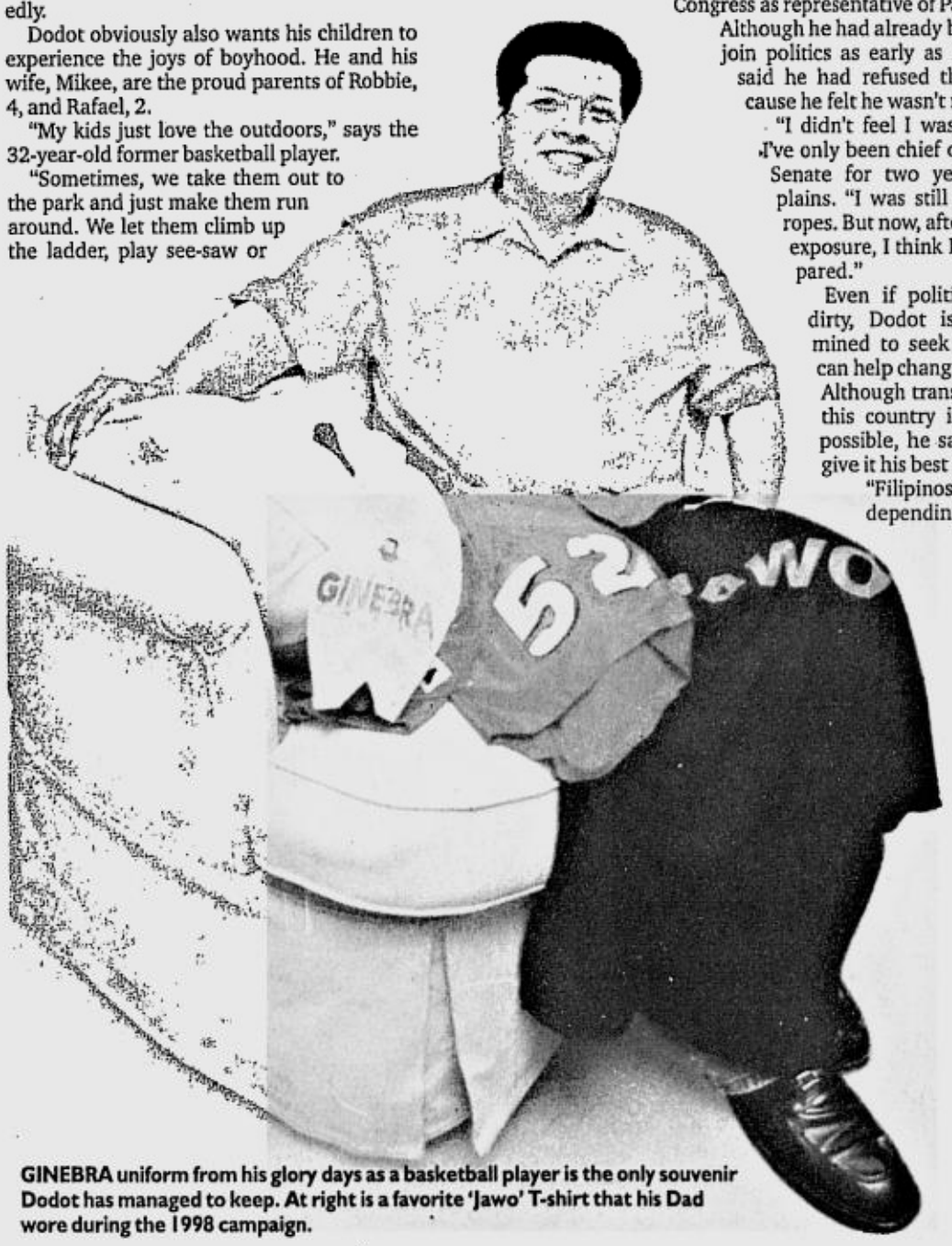
"My boots are also Bass. A pair of boots by Grant from Italy was given to me by my dad. The other pair is Cole Haan."

Jeans. "You know, I'm not particular about the brand as long as it fits well, *ayos na*. I have a pair of jeans that is really my favorite. My dad used to have his own line of garments called Jawo sports wear. This is a pair of their jeans. It's an old pair—1996 *pa*. It still fits, but it used to be lose before (laughs)."

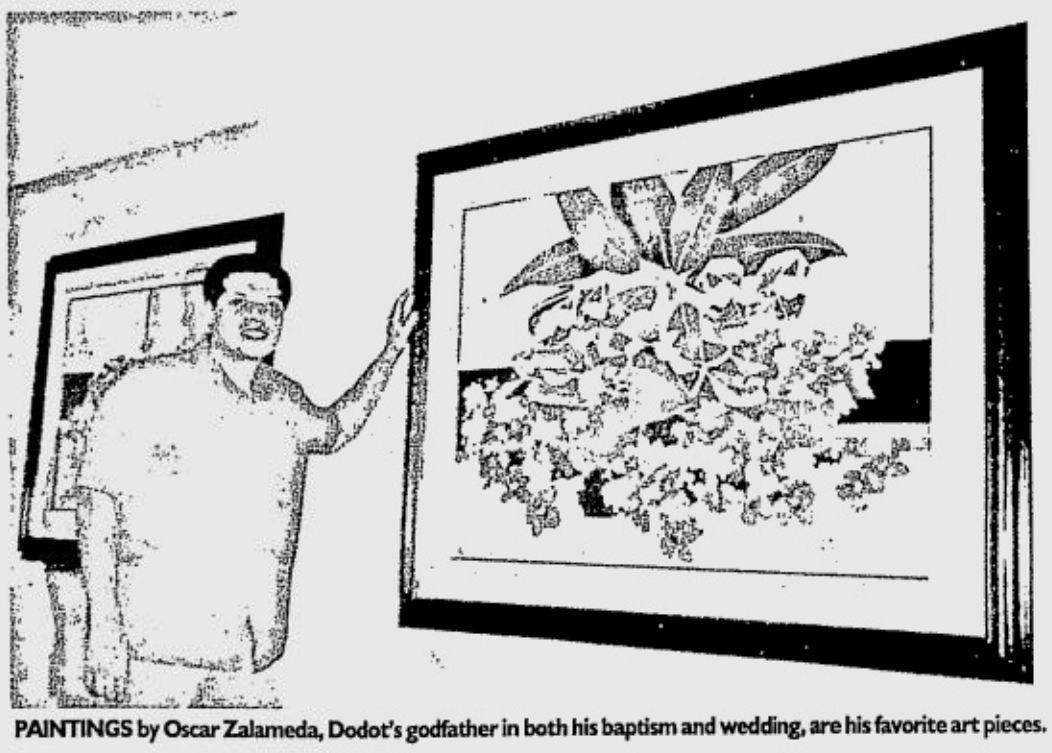
Uniform. "Of all the uniform designs we've had since I played basketball, I only have one left that I vowed never to part with. Every conference—there are three in a year—the players have at least four sets of uniforms, sometimes more. But a lot of people would ask for them. I don't have a single jacket left. My jersey is also nowhere to be found. Fans, friends, they all want our uniforms. Naturally, you'd think you'd never run out so you just give them away. But at the end of the day, there's only one left for me, and this is it. So I'm really taking care of it as part of my memorabilia."

Watch. "Swatch (laughs). I used to wear watches, but lately, I stopped wearing them unless there's a special occasion. *Wala lang*."

THE CHESSBOARD is a gift from his mother-in-law, Margarita Cojuangco; the chess pieces are from his dad, the Big J.



GINEBRA uniform from his glory days as a basketball player is the only souvenir Dodot has managed to keep. At right is a favorite 'Jawo' T-shirt that his Dad wore during the 1998 campaign.



PAINTINGS by Oscar Zalameda, Dodot's godfather in both his baptism and wedding, are his favorite art pieces.

KENKOY KLASIKS by Tony Velasquez celebrating 75 years

ALIWAN 1936 from the LOPEZ MUSEUM collection / Courtesy of KOMIKS CAFE / INQ EDITION 2.09.04

'Polling in love' with the APO

GERONIMO

SANTOS

POLITICS and love have lots of things in common, according to Jim Paredes of the APO.

Both involve courtship, rejection, acceptance, treachery and competition.

"There's only one letter separating elections from erections, right?" he says with a laugh.

This is just a preview of what could be a hilarious musical night with the APO and their show "Polling in Love—APOlitically Incorrect Valentine" at 8 p.m. Thursday at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo.

Nyoy Volante and comedian Jon Santos join the APO in what is described as "a hilarious prelude to the May 2004 presidential elections."

This is not the first time that the APO will be doing a show with a title that means more that what is says.

The group has had shows like "In a Horny Mood" ("Because we had a lot of horns," says Jim) and "Yuko, Biglang Liko," a tongue-in-cheek look at love, sex and motels.

But in "Polling in Love, the APO was inspired by an election that is looming in the horizon.

For the show's posters, Jim posed as Fernando Poe Jr., Danny as Ping Lacson, Boboy Garrovillo as Raul Roco, Jon as President Macapagal-Arroyo and Nyoy as Mr. Suave, or the 2004 version of the Pinoy voter, Juan de la Cruz.

"This is the right time [for a concert like this]," sayst Jim. "And I don't think the politics will turn people off, at least not if it's done the right way."

But the audience can still expect to hear the APO's popular hits like "Show Me a Smile," "Love Is for Singing," "When I Met You," "Anna" and "Tuyo Nang Damdamin," with updated arrangements.

Proceeds from the show is for the benefit of the mission work of Ang Lingkod ng Panginoon, a nationwide movement of Catholic single men and women in cooperation with Visine Advanced Relief, Bonamine, Bactidol and Sinutab. Radio station 99.5RT is the official concert station.

Tickets at P500, P1,000, P1,500, P2,000, P2,500 are available at the Araneta Ticketnet (911-55555).

'Star' winners join songbird, songwriter in concert

SHOW TIME

STAR for A Night champion Sarah Geronimo and Star In A Million grand prize winner Erik Santos join Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez and hitmaker Ogie Alcasid 'The Songbird and The Songwriter... Journey of Love... Music to Remember" happening on Feb. 14 at the Expo Filipino in Clarkfield, Pampanga, and on Feb. 15 at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Sex Bombs and the Hotlegs also guest in the shows.

This is the first back-to-back performance by Ogie and Regine.

Tickets available at popular outlets.

Actors warn . . .

From page C1

"FPJ has been a natural leader of the industry for 40 years. He knows what it takes to lead organizations—large or small," Romero pointed out.

"More than that, he has the qualities of a good leader," Romero added. "He is a man of his word. Even when it is hard to live up to his word, he lives up to it. Everyday has been a testament to his responsibility, character, his imagination, competence and intelligence. I don't know what else they are looking for."

Romero directed Poe in some of the actor's critically acclaimed films, like "Intramuros" (1964), "Hanggang May Kalaban" (1965), "Durugin si Totoy Bato" (1979) and "Aguila" (1980). He also wrote the screenplay of Poe's "Ang Padrino" (1984).

Former Sen. Ernesto Maceda believes that only Poe can unite the country despite his lack of a clear political platform.

Good platform

"It's not a matter of having a good platform, any candidate · whether president, senator or mayor, can give you a printed copy of a good platform. But in the final analysis, will that platform be implemented?" Maceda asked. "Will the agricultural technicians, community development workers, social workers and other people in the field obey a leader who they do not respect?"

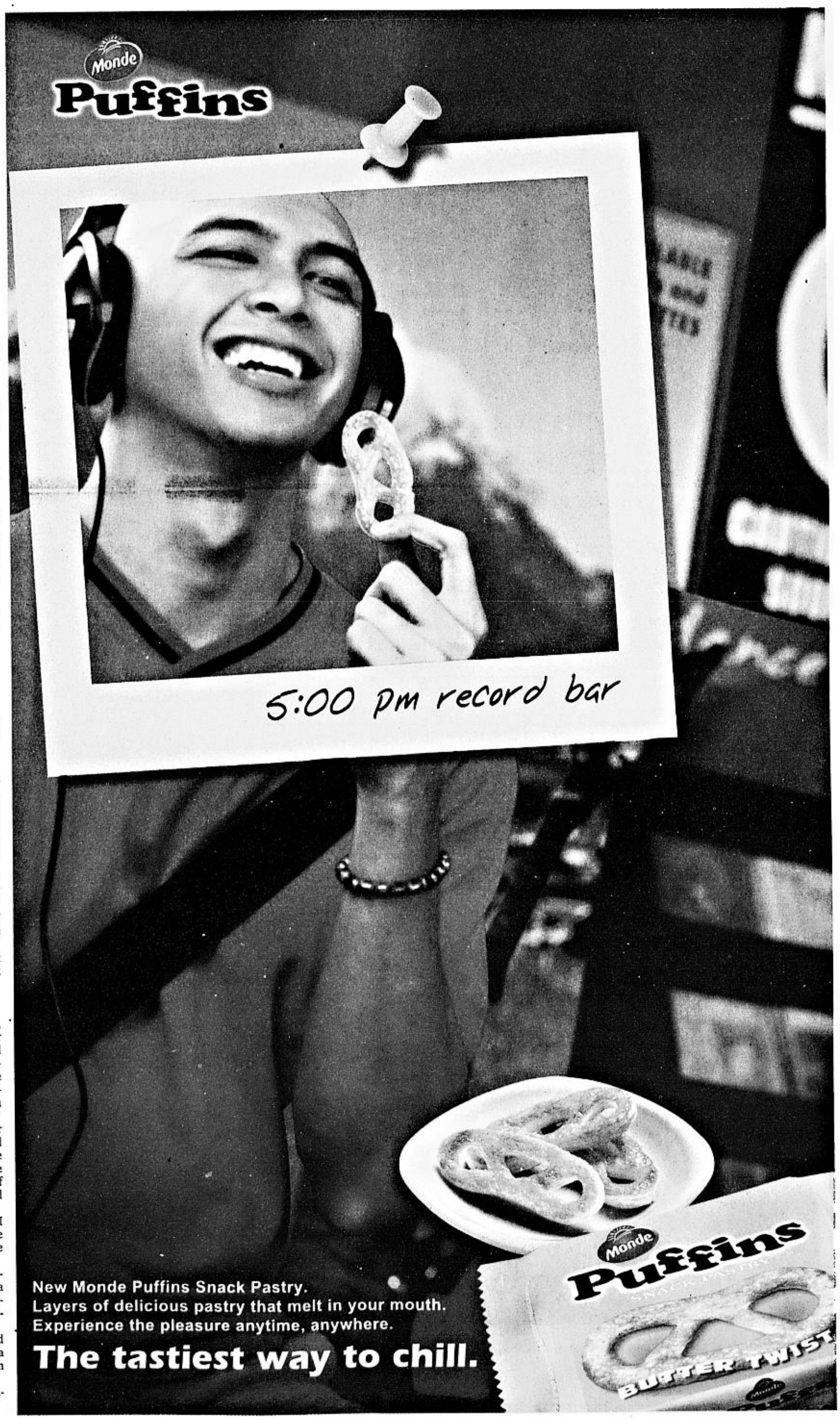
Addressing the audience last Friday, Poe for the first time gave a glimpse of his political platform, saying that, "in order for the people to have confidence in the government, there must be a leader who would apply the rule of law (and) good governance. (There should be) political will and total transparency."

Maceda told INQUIRER Entertainment: "I think FPJ is the kind of leader who can get the bureaucracy and even Congress to cooperate in implementing programs."

Maceda was married to veteran movie producer and show biz stalwart Marichu Vera Perez-Maceda, popularly known in the industry as Manay Ichu. But they have been separated for many years.

Manay Ichu is the daughter of Dr. Jose and Mrs. Azucena Perez, who built Sampaguita Pictures, one of the Big Four movie studios in the '50s and '60s.

Poe's wife, Susan Roces, was a prized contract star of Sampaguita in the 1960s.



ENTERTAINMENT

Kidman dismisses breast cancer rumors

LOS ANGELES—Nicole Kidman launched a preemptive strike at what she said were unfounded tabloid rumors that she has breast cancer.

Representatives of the "Cold Mountain" actress said they wanted to set the record straight after receiving numerous questions from reporters after some of Kidman's health records were obtained without authorization.

The Oscar winner said Friday she's in perfect health.

"Unfortunately, due to an invasion of my medical privacy, I've received a number of calls from the press asking about a visit to the hospital in Los Angeles in January," Kidman said in a statement released exclusively to The Associated Press. "I went in for a routine checkup, and the doctors discovered an area they thought needed further testing. The results of those tests were negative and I was given an 'all clear.'

"Needless to say, my family and I are enormously relieved and thankful," she added. "As always, I am committed to raising funds and awareness for women's health issues, and I'd like to emphasize the importance for all women to have regular mammograms and checkups."

Coincidentally, Kidman is set to be honored on March 1 by the Women's Cancer Research Fund in a ceremony designed to raise money for women's cancer research. She is being recognized in part for her work as the board chair for the organization Women's Health Fund at UCLA.

Meanwhile, the actress has appeared healthy at various awards ceremonies in recent weeks and her upcoming work schedule does not suggest someone who is ailing.

In March, Kidman begins filming the United Nations thriller "The Interpreter," followed by a comedic role as the housewife enchantress in a remake of TV's "Bewitched." *AP*

KIDMAN continues to appear healthy at recent award ceremonies.

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Nominally interesting start for 'Te Amo'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

GMA 7's new soap, "Te Amo," started its weeknight run last Monday, and we made sure we caught its first episode. Our initial observations:

The soap series' female lead, **Iza Calzado**, is too svelte and classy to be believable as a naive and much-abused village lass.

The show's visuals are lovely and folksy, a welcome departure from the opulent mansions that are many local soaps' usual setting.

Strong performers like **Jennifer Sevilla, Johnny Delgado, Elizabeth Oropesa** and **Princess Punzalan** should keep the show's thespic energy high and dynamic.

Imported male star **Segundo Cernadas** is still an unknown factor as of this writing, since the first telecast ended with his being found unconscious on a beach.

We fear that the series' plot is too predictable. We didn't know anything about it, but when we were asked to speculate, we surmised that Cernadas' character could be found unconscious on a beach, after a shipwreck caused by a terrible storm the night before, and that he could be suffering from amnesia.

No word yet last Monday about the shipwreck and amnesia, but Cernadas' character was found unconscious on a beach after a storm. —Did the series' writers have to think hard and long to come up with this trite plot premise? Oh, please.

The following evening, we tuned in again to see how the plot "Te Amo" was progressing. We were disheartened to discover that our predictable hunch about Cernadas' character suffering from amnesia turned out to be correct.

Other developments: It was revealed that the mother of Calzado's character (Elizabeth Oropesa) hated her because she was her father's daughter by another woman.

Also, a "rich bitch" played by **Angelu de Leon** made her appearance and threatened to compete with the series' lead female character for the shipwrecked foreigner's affections.

So far, so nominally interesting. We hope that the action really heats up this week, and that both plot and characterization take more creative and original turns.

How does Iza Calzado do in this new soap? She's dusky and lovely, but is miscast as a much-abused and clueless village lass. Someone with her looks and projection doesn't fit into the remote fishing village's backward milieu.

True, the show has other performers who are also too mestizo for its bucolic setting, but Calzado is the series' leading lady, so the visual dissonance is particularly glaring in her case.

As for Cernadas, he was supine and dizzy in the soap's first two episodes, so he should be given time to get back on his feet before we size up his performance as a more "vertical" actor.

Despite these initially downbeat observations, we wish "Te Amo" well because, if it clicks with viewers, it could lead to the show's being sold to TV markets in Latin America, thus expanding the reach and income-generating potential of locally produced melodramas.

'Annie B.'

VIVA Films' first movie for 2004 is **Jolina Magdangal**'s latest starrer, "Anni B." Jolina is cast as an *ukay-ukay* vendor who is discovered while dancing with friends in a disco, and becomes a commercial model.

The film's romantic comedy cum musical format makes full use of Jolina's singing, dancing and comedic skills. She has two leading men, **Dingdong Dantes** and **Jordan Herrera**. Some *ukay-ukay* vendors have all the luck!

"Annie B." also features **Gloria Romero, Armando Goyena, Ronaldo Valdez, Amy Austria** and **Janice de Belen**. —Hey, that's quite a cast!

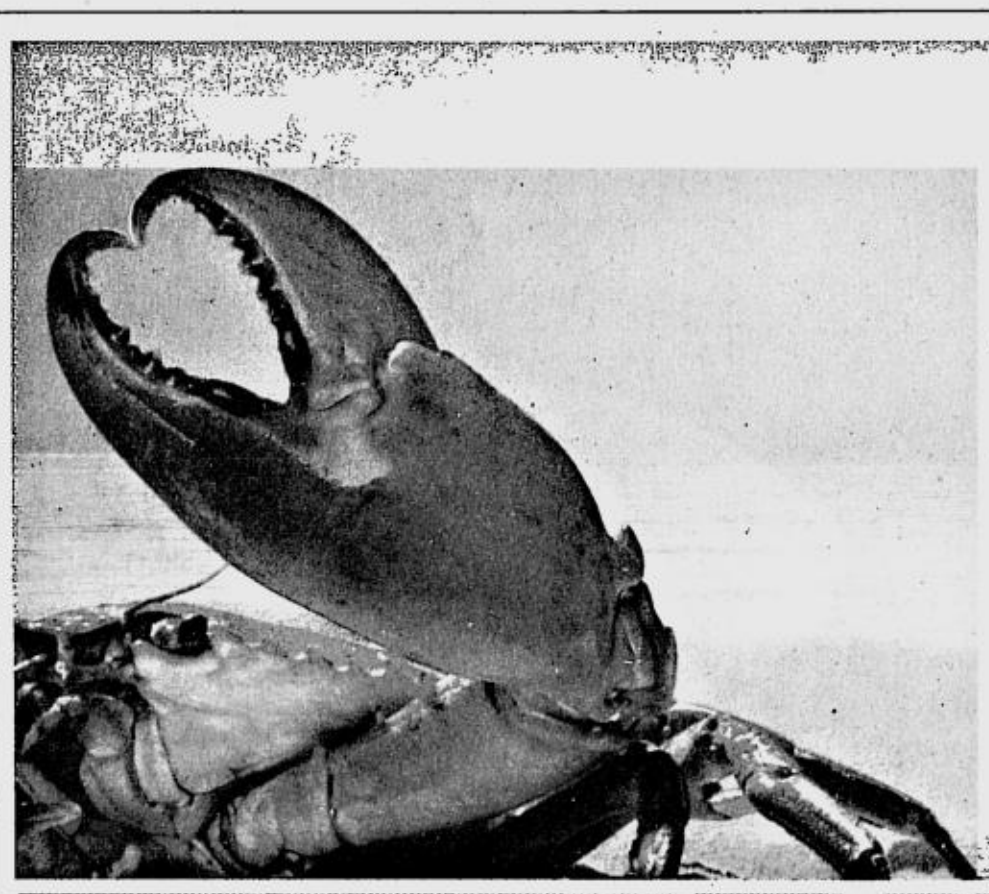
Christine Carlos at Azzurro

GET a heady musical kick this Valentine's Day as sultry **Christine Carlos** and **Willy Bayona** wax romantic with well-loved jazz standards made popular or revived by **Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Michael Bublé, Diana Krall** and **Laura Fygi.**

Christine and Willy perform on Feb. 13 and 14. Azzurro is at 104 Somerset Millennium, Aguirre St., Legaspi Village (behind the Asian Institute of Management). Call 889-0569.

101 Most Beautiful Necklaces

DESIDERATA and the Tantoco-Rustia Foundation are putting up an exhibit of 101 Most Beautiful Necklaces at the Greenbelt 3 Lobby for the benefit of the Philippine-Italian Association. The exhibit's grand opening is at 6 p.m. on Feb. 10.



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The rondalla rocks!

THE UP Rondalla (right) is backed up by a double bass (left).

PHOTOS: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

An international festival in Bicol pays tribute to the truly global folk music form—the humble rondalla

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

THE INTERNATIONAL Festival on the Rondalla, ongoing now in Naga and Legazpi in Bicol until Feb. 14, is the first of its kind in the country. It features performances, outreach presentations, exhibits and a seminar-workshop on the historical development of the *rondalla* as well as an exchange of performance techniques and styles to be shared by the participating *rondalla* ensembles.

The festival is a major project of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) with the City Government of Naga, the Development Institute of Bicolano Artists Foundation, Inc., and the City Government of Legazpi. An additional performance will be held at the CCP Main Theater on Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.

The festival, says Maria Fina Yonzon, executive director of the NCCA, is "a long-awaited activity" that forms an integral part of the current National Arts Month, which has as its theme "Sining Pinoy 2004—Makilahok sa Malikhaing Sambayanan."

The *rondalla* festival is billed in appropriate Bicolano, "Cuerdas nin Kagabsan," which means "Strings for All," to signify "Strings for Unity."

Dr. Ramon P. Santos, chair of NCCA's National Committee on Music, conceptualized the project and who heads the festival's steering committee, noted that the festival promotes Unesco's International Music Council Action Program on Musical Diversity, and underscores a "fresh strategy in advancing the cause of world peace and understanding through the celebration of common musical patrimonies."

He adds that the International Music Council Executive Committee has expressed interest in its first quarter meeting for 2004 to observe the festival's proceedings in Bicol. The members of the committee represent more than 10 countries from Europe, Africa, Asia, the Americas and the Middle East.

Historic

The festival, Dr. Santos continues, is a "historic undertaking," as attention is focused on an "important, yet often overlooked piece of musical inheritance."

He categorizes the *rondalla* as a "primary emblem of the national heritage in the performing arts" that has become an "indispensable element" in the nation's social activities, as it has formed part of the "life cycle events of Filipinos in both rural and urban surroundings," providing aesthetic fulfillment to our national life not only in the

THE RONDALLA/ D3

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SMART launched Choose Your Dream late last December, and has already fulfilled one man's dream. By keying in DREAM and sending to 232, every P15 you spend on any or a combination of SMART's products and special services earns you a raffle ticket. Every time you make IDD calls, send international texts, use MMS, or download from StarTXT, TNT Chismis, Music Link, Cinema Club, Music Link, Zed and other SMART services, you earn more raffle tickets towards your dream showcase.

December's raffle saw Elmer Cayabyab choose an Asian Viajera travel package: being able to visit Shanghai, Bangkok, and Hong Kong as well as US $8,000 pocket money. January's winner will choose from three different showcases. The Luxury Showcase features a brand new condo unit worth P3.5 million at Fairways Tower at The Fort. A Seadoo jetboat and jetski tandem can be won in the Adventure Showcase, while the Business Showcase promises your very own SMART Load center.

There's one last raffle to be held right after Valentine's Day on February 16, where you can still win a brand new BMW Z4 sports car for the Adventure Showcase, the luxurious BMW 520i in the Luxury Showcase, or opt for the Business Showcase of a fleet of 5 Mitsubishi Adventure GLXs.

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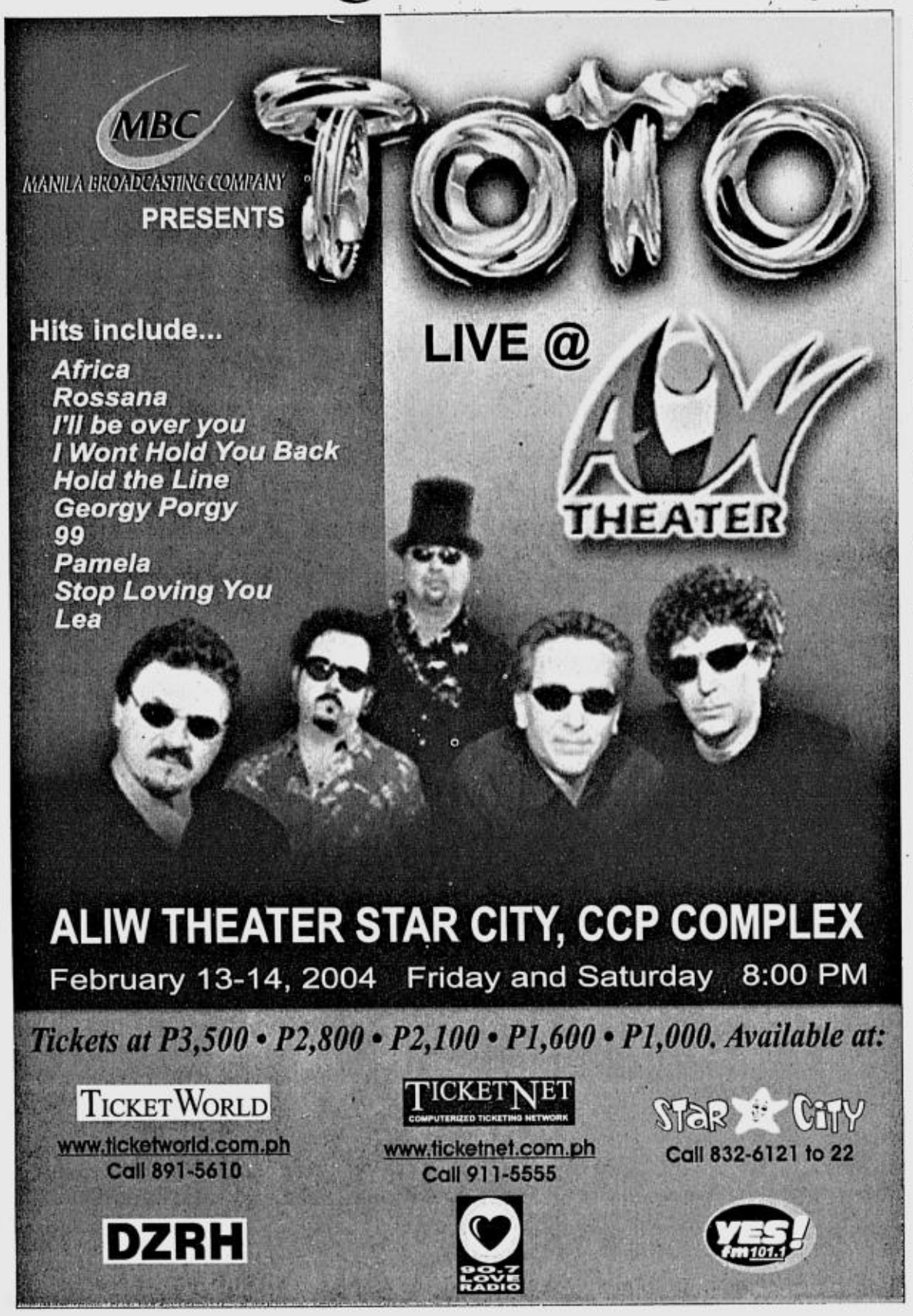


The ancient, elemental chants of the Ifugao tribe are making their way to the CCP stage via Tanghalang Pilipino's 'Hudhud (An Ifugao Romance)'

By Gibbs Cadiz

MILA Rose Romero and Nina Rumbines alternately play Bugan, while Shamaine Centenera Buencamino plays Apu Baket, in Tanghalang Pilipino's "Hudhud (An Ifugao Romance)."

"WHAT honor are men always talking about? They decide our honor and violate us if we do not give it to them."

Quick now, which work of dramatic art contains that feminist *cri de coeur*? Aristophanes' "Lysistrata"? Caryl Churchill's "Top Girls"? Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues"?

None of the above. The answer is a surprisingly homegrown one: the "Hudhud," or oral narratives of the Ifugao tribe of the Cordilleras.

In the days of old, the "Hudhud" stories were chanted by Ifugao women during wakes or while harvesting. They told of ancient blood feuds and tribal wars, of brave warriors and strong maidens caught in the grips of personal and social strife.

Myth, memory and history blended in these chants to produce epic narratives that gave shape and soul to the indigenous culture of this hardy mountain people in the North.

These days, the "Hudhud" has passed on to both men and women of the tribe, and on an ordinary day up in their Cordillera villages, "you can see old Ifugaos chanting the ancient stories on the street, with a crowd around them listening and reacting to the story," says Herbie Go, associate artistic director of Tanghalang Pilipino (TP), the resident theater company of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Oral masterpiece

For being an irreplaceable time capsule of a venerable culture, the "Hudhud" was recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in May 2001 as one of 19 world masterpieces of oral and intangible heritage, together with the Noh and Kyogen theaters of Japan and the puppet theater of Sicily, among others.

On CCP's part, "We're highlighting the chants as a unique cultural treasure of our country," says playwright Nicolas Pichay, whose contemporary theatrical adaptation of one of the narratives ("there are as many versions as there are chanters," he explains) will be presented by TP at the CCP Little Theater starting Feb. 20.

"Hudhud (An Ifugao Romance)" is a take-off from "Hudhud of Dinulawan and Bugan at Gonhadan," a narrative that tells of a wealthy 17-year-old maiden named Bugan and her diligent fight for dignity and honor in a male-dominated world.

It is Bugan who utters the lament mentioned above, near the end of the play, as she transforms into an 80-year-old chantress, Apu Baket (played alternately by Bayang Barrios and Shamaine Centenera-Buencamino).

"As stories like these were chanted by the women of the tribe, there are naturally very strong women's views," notes Pichay.

Question of intent

How authentic is TP's "Hudhud?"

It is authentic as it could be, says the playwright. "The audience will hear as close a version of the Ifugao chants as possible. Our musical director, Chino Toledo, came up with a score that's based very, very closely on the real thing."

As Pichay explains it, it's largely a question of intention. "We can never capture it exactly the way it is, as we're not Ifugao and we're lowlanders, but we took the effort to understand and research on the culture."

There's the problem, too, of the dearth of authoritative source texts. The original "Hudhud" narratives were never written down, and extant transcripts of some versions in ancient Ifugao script are not fully understood even by present-day tribe members.

"Our choice was to base the play on English transcriptions of the chants, and then do a translation into Filipino," says Pichay.

The curtains will rise, then, on a play spoken in Tagalog but with supertitles in English and the Ifugao dialect. The Filipino translation is by award-winning writer-professor Romulo Baquiran Jr.

To approximate the aural character of the Ifugao chants, the performers are also learning to sing—or drone—in a three-note near-monotone with uneven, unpredictable patterns.

"It can be very tiring," admits Roy Rolloda, who plays the male lead, Aliguyon (alternating with Neil Ryan Sese).

To achieve the sound, inflection and syllabication of authentic Ifugao chanting, Rolloda explains the cast had to ditch everything they had learned in theater about proper vocal command and placement.

"The sound is all here in the throat," he says. "It's close to being guttural, sung as spoken but at the same time different."

He demonstrates by producing a pinched, high-pitched singsong sound that instantly evokes earthy, ethnic sensations.

"Whatever it is, it's certainly not Broadway," he says.

Ethnic trend

The fact that the set is by Kidlat Tahimik is also noteworthy, says Pichay.

"Tahimik is the 'original Ifugao,' if you remember. He made this acclaimed film—'Perfumed Nightmare'—a film about a guy in a G-string. And even before the ethnic trend, he was already there, saying we had something to learn about the mores and manners of Ifugao culture."

For the all-important choreography, the company has tapped Agnes Locsin. Director is Fernando Josef himself, CCP vice president and artistic director.

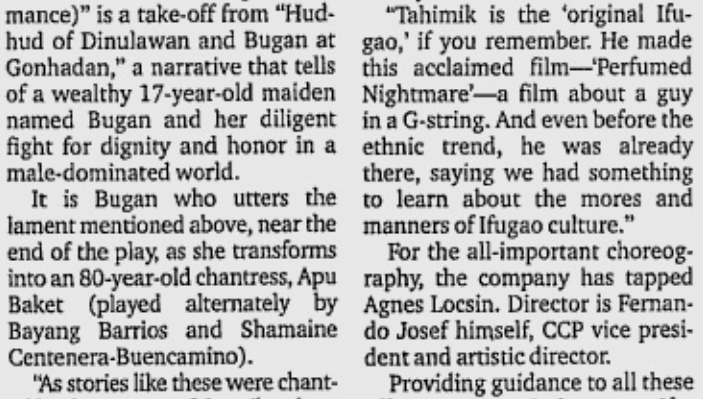
Providing guidance to all these efforts is Manny Dulawan, an Ifugao consultant who reviewed the material's factuality.

What audiences will get in the end is a fusion of chant, dance, music and dialogue—a theater piece showing that "the Ifugao chants are as precious as the rice terraces themselves," says Pichay.

"This is not an anthropological dissection of the Ifugao, but a celebration of their culture," he adds. "The chants are an expression of how strong their culture is in an age of global homogeneity. Being Ifugao today is really an act of defiance."

"Hudhud (An Ifugao Romance)" runs from Feb. 20-Mar. 7 at the CCP Little Theater. Call 8323661, 8321125 locals 1620-21 or 8919999.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph



CLOCKWISE, from left: Iraz Melchor (Dinulawan), Bayang Barrios (Apu Baket), Teff Jamias (Indagami) and Mila Rose Romero (Bugan) in a scene from the play

MECHANICS:

1. All natural born females residing in the Philippines between 18 - 24 years old meeting the criteria below are invited to join the search for Miss Silka 2004:
   - fair complexion
   - at least 5'3" in height
   - with pleasing personality of good moral character
   - College level or College graduate

   *PROMO STARTS DECEMBER 1, 2003 UNTIL MARCH 31, 2004

2. Entries have to be mailed with the following requirements enclosed:
   - one (1) label or empty box carton of any Silka product
   - Bio-data including name, address, contact number and signature
   - Vital statistics including height and weight
   - 3R size close-up colored picture
   - 4R size full-body colored picture

3. Entries have to be mailed to the following address:
   Search for Miss Silka 2004
   c/o PBS ADVERTISING
   Dolmar Building, 1122 Perez Street,
   cor. U.N. Avenue, Paco Manila

4. Selection Process:
   - There will be four (4) qualification rounds held before the day of Miss Silka 2004 Pageant.
   - For each qualification round, twenty (20) candidates will be interviewed. Three (3) will be chosen as finalists for each round – for a total of twelve (12) finalists to compete for the title of Miss Silka 2004 on the day of the pageant.
   - Selected candidates and finalists will be notified through registered mail. For those residing in remote areas of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, 2-way transportation fare and 1 night hotel accommodation will be provided for the participant and 1 companion.

Schedule of Events:

Event	Event Date	Last Day for Entry Submission
Qualification round # 1	January 10, 2004	December 31, 2003
Qualification round # 2	February 7, 2004	January 31, 2004
Qualification round # 3	March 6, 2004	February 29, 2004
Qualification round # 4	April 3, 2004	March 31, 2004
Miss Silka Pageant 2004	April 24, 2004	

*Only one entry per participant will be acknowledged throughout the duration of the search.
*All Silka employees, distributors, retailers and advertising agencies, including their relatives up to the 3rd degree of consanguinity or affinity are excluded.

5. Awards:

Miss Silka 2004 winner
- Php 100,000
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1st runner up
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12 finalists chosen during the elimination rounds
- Php 5,000
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Candidates interviewed
- Silka gift pack

PER DOH-BFAD Permit #1041 s. 2003

The rondalla rocks!

From page D1

countryside but all over the land.

But even as its roots can be traced to Europe, the Iberian Peninsula in particular, and the rest of the Mediterranean basin, including the Arab world, there is much to rejoice, says Dr. Santos, about the fact that the rondalla, as a cultural activity, has diffused from the Philippines to other parts of the world such as North America, Southeast Asia and parts of the Pacific Rim.

Evolving from the Spanish *comparza* and *estudiantina*, the *rondalla* has been Filipinized, and has become a medium for the expression of national folk life. It also shares common roots with various musical traditions in many parts of the world. In short, the *rondalla* has come full circle and is now enjoyed the world over.

It is on this note that the international festival is held, all done in the spirit of "renewing and celebrating the 'shared heritage' of the *rondalla*," underscoring its wealth of repertory, not only among us Filipinos but also even the other peoples of the world, Dr. Santos emphasizes.

RAMON Santos of the NCCA National Committee on Music and executive director Maria Fina Yonzon

Bikol wise

The choice of Bikol as festival venue, Dr. Santos adds, was due to the region having "produced some of the finest musical artists of the land, including *rondalla* performers."

Dr. Verne de la Peña, secretary-general of the Namcya, points out the strong tradition of *rondalla* music in the country. The *rondalla*, she says, has not become static or a mere museum piece; rather, it has shown its dynamism through time as it continues to explore and experiment with newer sounds.

In fact, Santos says, some *rondalla* groups are set to play avant-garde pieces to the audience's delight.

The UP Rondalla based in the UP College of Music in Diliman, QC, will include a flute and a violin in its performance. Under the supervision of its founder, professor Edna Aurora C. Culig, the group impressed the media with its soulful rendition of opera music from Bizet's Carmen, and the "La Jota Servillana," a work that comes all the way from Janiuay, Iloilo.

The versatility of the *rondalla* as an assisting ensemble was also shown in Velez's "Sa Kabukiran," with soprano Alexis Edralin as soloist.

The festival's foreign participants include: Quartette Phoenix, Russia; Three Plucked Strings, Israel; Rondalla Motivos and Rondalla del Recuerdo, Mexico; Tuna Universitaria Complutense de Madrid, Spain; Rondanihan, Australia; Iskwelang Pilipino Rondalla Ensemble, USA.

Aside from the UP group, participants from the Philippines include: the UST Conservatory of Music Rondalla; PNU Rondalla; Andres Bonifacio Elementary School Alumni Rondalla Manila; Celso Espejo Rondalla Manila; Naga Central School Rondalla; Kabataang Silay Rondalla, Negros Occidental; Ka-anyag Pilipinas Dance Company and Rondalla, Bacolod; Kwerdas, Siliman University, Dumaguete City; Sta. Rita de Cascia Children's Rondalla, Angat, Bulacan; Candelaria Community Rondalla, Quezon and Davao City High School Rondalla.

Call 9297809 and 9257139.

Dionatext poetry winners known

RAYMUND Pambid of Cavite City and Fernando Gonzales of Las Piñas City were chosen as the Text Makata ng Linggo for the first week of the Dionatext Poetry Writing Contest.

The winners of the consolation prizes are: Rosemarie Pacio, Lamperto Espedido, Dovie Germio, Arlene Tan, Ricardo Palaypay, German Gervacio, Joselito Nilo T. Cruz and Joel Malabanan.

There were 10,000 entries on the first week of the contest, elating National Artist Virgilio Almario, the head juror.

The contest is sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts with the Filipinas Institute of Translation, Inc., Unyon ng mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas and the UP Institute of Creative Writing.

The *diona* is a short poem composed of three versified rhyming lines. Each line consists only of seven syllables expressing a complete thought.

Dionatext entries must be written in Filipino and must express love of the family. Contestants must submit their entries through text at 0927-4641814 or 0918-2252718.

Entries must be accompanied by the name and address of the author. Entries must be received not later than 5 p.m. every Friday of the contest week.

Every week for the month of February, judges will pick two winners (Text Makata ng Linggo), who will receive P5,000 each.

Eight consolation prizes of P2,000 will be awarded.

The winning entries:

Ang payong ko'y si Inay
Kapote ko si Itay
Sa maulan kong buhay.

Raymund Pambid
Cavite City

Aanhin yamang Saudi,
O yen ng Japayuki,
Kung wala ka sa tabi?

Fernando R. Gonzales
Las Piñas City

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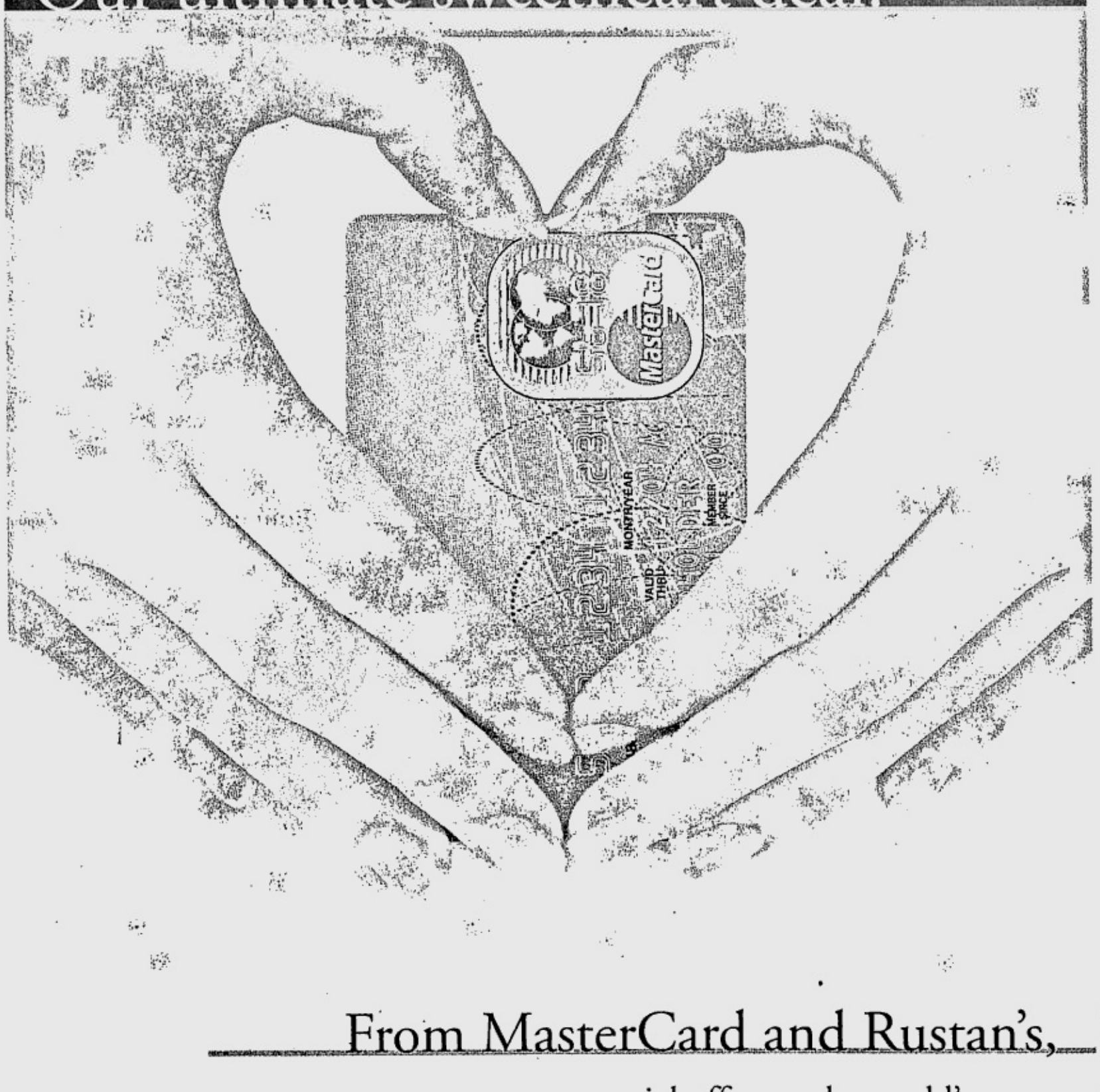

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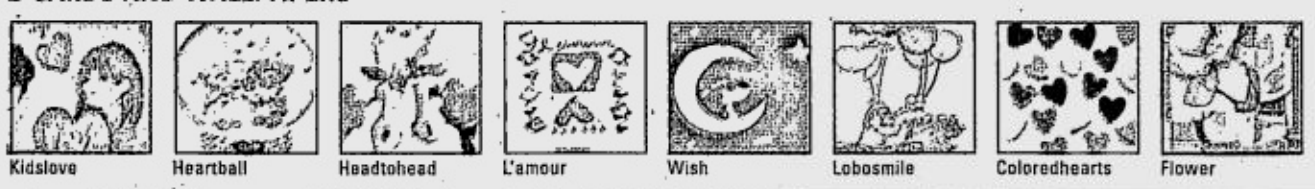

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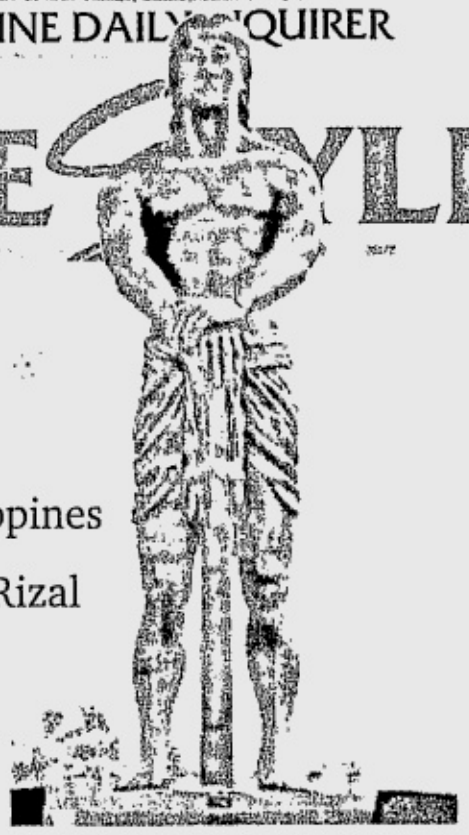
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0301, Series of 2004



Should Lapu-lapu be in Rizal Park?

WOW Philippines transforms Rizal Park into a bow-wow

AGRIFINA Circle (a.k.a. Valencia Circle) is one of those ill-fated places in Manila whose karma is that one administration after another has looked on it as a preferred location for its monuments.

Situated between the imposing colonnaded façades of two American period buildings, the Museum of the Filipino People (formerly the Department of Finance) and the Department of Tourism buildings, the circle demarcates the Taft Avenue boundary of broad Rizal Park which begins at the Manila Bay.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

There has been a series of monuments that have come and gone on Agrifina Circle. Once there was a fountain with a globe encircled by metal rings. Then the Ramos administration tried to erect the ill-fated "Tabako Tower" there. After that came the Binhi ng mga Bayani monument, which has been removed.

The latest intrusion on Agrifina Circle is the massive gold-painted statue of Lapu-lapu constructed by the newly resigned secretary of tourism despite the disapproval of the National Historical Institute, who has jurisdiction over any new construction in Rizal Park.

Rizal Park is a National Historical Landmark (NHI Resolution No. 7, Series 1995). Therefore, any building or alteration within the park requires NHI approval.

The question goes beyond the aesthetics of the statue, or whether it would have been better to have a non-representational Lapu-lapu image (who knows what Lapu-lapu really looked like?).

It is the disregard of NHI authority that is at issue here, and the disrespect of a historic site while we clamor for tighter legislation to protect our historic and heritage sites.

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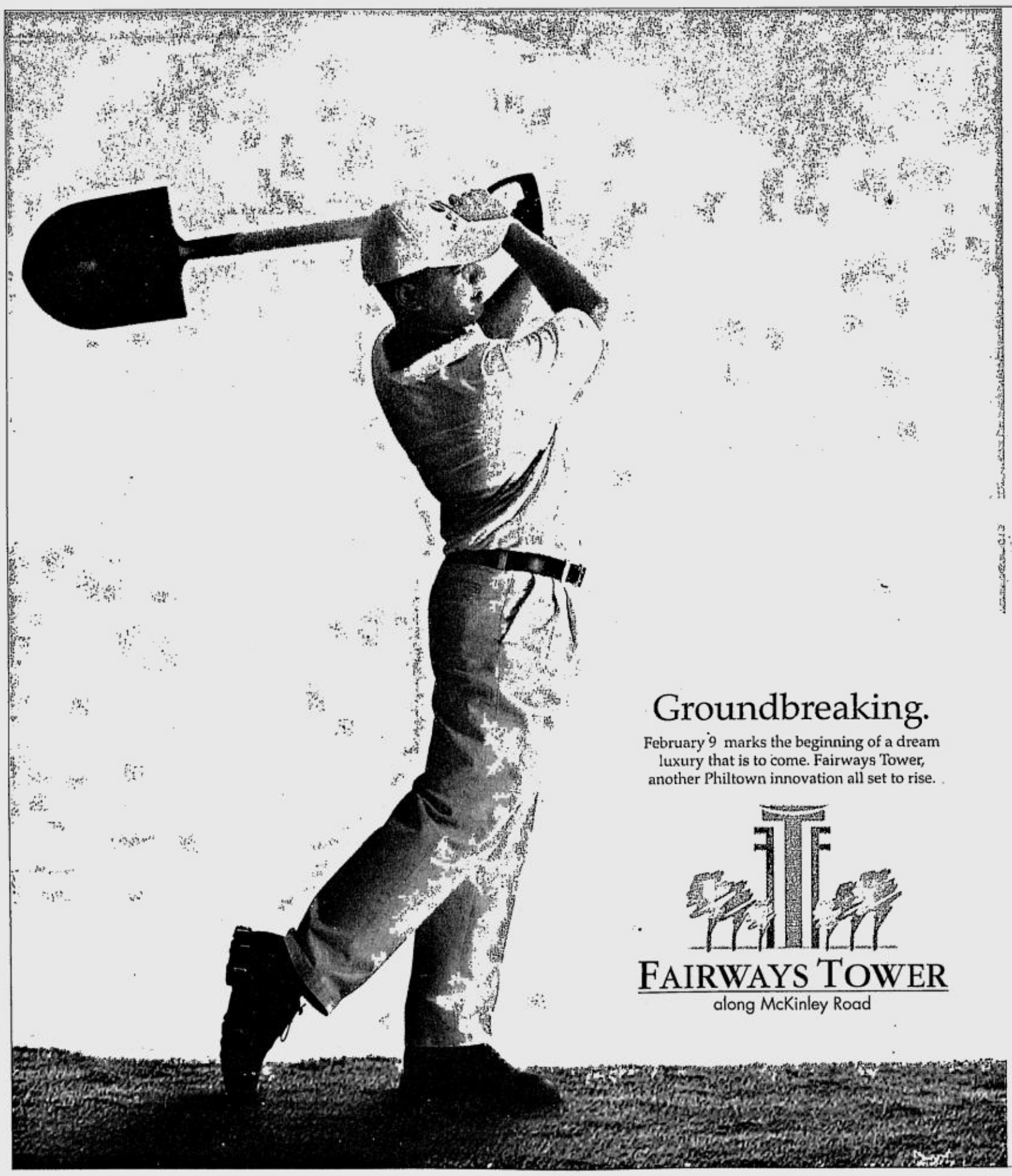

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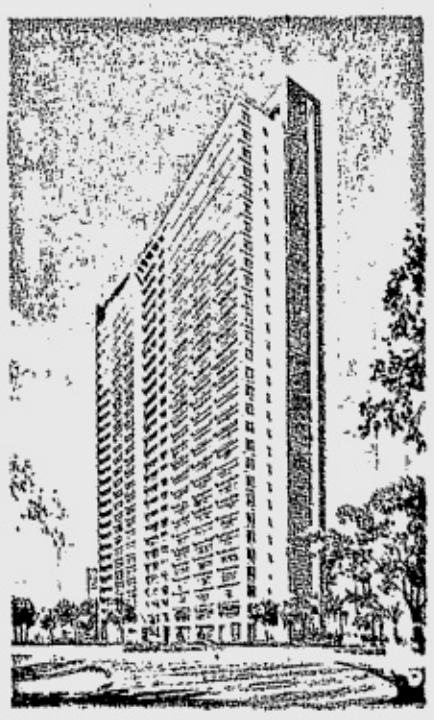

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ALL4ART

Bea Zobel Jr.

HAVE you ever gone to someone's home and admired a painting but were too embarrassed to comment on it for fear of using the wrong terms and making a fool of yourself?

Well don't worry! If it's any consolation, I once admired a cubist painting and I was just about to show off some remembered knowledge from my college days when my friend said, "Bee, can you imagine, my son painted that and I think it is so incredible that I have put it amongst my wonderful paintings here in the living room, and I just laugh to myself when people begin to analyze it, thinking it belongs to a great master."

So, all of you out there who wish to know how to appreciate a work of art, I will ask art experts to enlighten us and we can all learn together.

One of my favorite paintings in the Metropolitan Museum of Manila is a group portrait of the Quiazon family by Simón Flores, which belongs to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The man and woman in the picture are both so beautiful. The woman could easily give today's commercial models a run for their money. And the man is so dashing and elegant. Whew! The thoughts that come to mind are not purely artistic!

I asked Ino Manalo, Metropolitan Museum director, to explain this painting so that you in turn can brag and eloquently explain it when you need to!

Ino begins by explaining the elements of the work. He points out how the body of the man describes a firm upright line emphasizing the impression of strength and domination. In contrast, the seated woman is associated with more rounded shapes that suggest a comforting, encompassing softness. As such, the artist's use of the element of line and shape clearly refers to traditional images of masculinity and femininity.

The man's hand rests firmly on the table. He is the provider, he brings home the bacon. The woman's hands hold her baby. She takes care of the children. Do you agree?

Possessions

Taking a look at the details of the painting, Ino goes on. (Boy, I really feel I am back in Art History 101.) We see that the couple are posing in their house, in the midst of their possessions. We see behind them the interior of a *bahay na bato*.

We see an inner room and, through an arched doorway, a sort of outer corridor with *capiz* windows. This outer corridor that runs along the perimeter of the house is a distinguishing feature of the *bahay na bato*—the *volada*.

The *bahay na bato* is, of course, associated with the wealthy Filipino merchant class that emerged in the 19th century. Often this class is referred to as the *ilustrados*.

Being *ilustrado* was not just about wealth, however. It was really about learning and refinement. It was about being enlightened.

We clearly see the trappings of wealth through this portrait. We see items that were imported from Europe, such as the plush drapes, the chandelier with glass globes. There are also the artificial flowers inside a glass container.

But there's more. We see the capitals of the pillars. (Okay, quick, what are the different types of capitals? Doric, Ionic and Catatonic! Ooops! Corinthian!) In this case, the capitals are Ionic.

There is also the cameo hanging on a black ribbon around the women's neck. These are images which evoke the Greco-Roman world or perhaps the Renaissance. The idea of learning is further emphasized by the bound book that one of the children is holding. Actually, I didn't notice the book until I took a closer look. Do you see it?

The *capiz* windows give a quality of translucence, and so do the *piña* and abaca fabrics. This quality of translucence is what makes these fabrics so special.

They cover you up so delicately and yet you are also so seductively, so subtly exposed. I think you can even make out the shape of the breasts of the woman in the painting. My friends think that I am seeing things. What do you think?

Family history

Enough of visible elements of the painting. Now for the part I like: the history of the family. One of the descendants of the couple, Toto Gonzalez, was interviewed by Ino. The story he related was quite fascinating.

The sitters are Cirilo Cunanan Quiazon and Ceferina Henson Quiazon as well as their two children, Aureo (with the book) and José (the baby).

Yes, the two kids are both boys. You might think why are they wearing dresses! It is, in fact, a Spanish custom to dress babies and children in "*faldones*" regardless of their sex.

Just from the names alone, you can tell that the couple belonged to some of the most illustrious families in Pampanga. The woman is descended from Angel Pantaleón de Miranda, who was fond of doing innovative things like founding the town of Angeles.

The couple's home was in San Fernando, but Toto says it is no longer there.

Ceferina was an acknowledged beauty of her time. It is said that her regimen included washing her face in tea. Her name was later recorded as "Severina" but Toto insists otherwise.

Cirilo was quite a prosperous man. He paid P50 for every figure in the painting—a grand total of P200—a fortune in those days.

The subjects only sat for the painter while he was working on their faces. They would send him their clothes so that he could fill in the rest of the work.

Dr. Jaime Laya likes to tell the story that the baby on Ceferina's lap was actually half-naked originally. His genitals were exposed. Having to endure so much ribbing, he eventually tried to recover his modesty by burning the part in question with a cigar (or was it a cigarette?). The painting had to be restored and the burnt portion covered up!

Sadly, things would take a turn for the worse after the painting was completed in the 1870s.

A priest is supposed to have fallen in love with Cirilo's sister. He conspired to have Cirilo arrested and tortured. He would later die because of the wounds he sustained from the torture. Widowed, Ceferina had difficulties making ends meet.

PORTRAIT of the Quiazon family by Simón Flores

Art historian Emmanuel Torres relates that, by a weird coincidence, a similar fate actually befell the portrait's painter, Simón Flores. Flores also had to deal with an overly amorous suitor who was after his sister, Celestina. Celestina would later suffer a "nervous breakdown" because of the unwelcome attention.

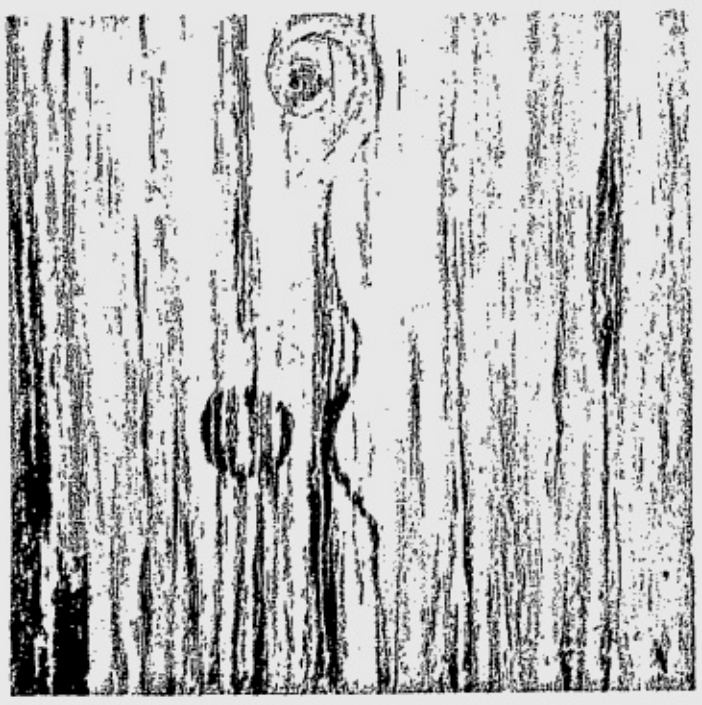
Torres comments that the painting is a wonderful integration of three different genres: landscape (the bit that can be seen through the window!), still life (the flowers) and portraiture.

This integration attests to the painter's skill. When I look at the painting I also remember the sad story of the people portrayed.

In a sense, the flowers under the glass are a painful symbol of the couple's fate. The flowers' beauty is preserved under glass. In the same way, the painting preserves Cirilo, Ceferina and their sons at the prime of their life, in the full bloom of their beauty.

We will always remember how wonderful they look even after events have overtaken the couple and time has taken its toll.

E-mail beartist@filipinaslibrary.org.ph or address letter to Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Ave., Ayala Triangle, Makati City.



"CELLO," by Henri Cainglet

"ALLEGRO," by Ramon Orlina

"AUX Clef," by Carlo Magno

More artists join 'musical' show

HENRI Cainglet, Carlo Magno and Jerry Morada have joined Galerie Joaquin's annual exhibit "La Musique MMIV," which runs until Feb. 17.

Other artists in the exhibit are Onib Olmedo, Angelito Antonio, Ramon Orlina, Mario Parial, Lydia Velasco, Marcel Antonio, Manny Garibay, Dominic Rubio, Bayani Ray Alcala, Edwin Tres Reyes, and the Guevarra Group of Artists.

Galerie Joaquin is at 371 P. Guevarra St. and Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan. Call 7239253, e-mail info@galeriejoaquin.com or visit www.galeriejoaquin.com

Should Lapu-lapu . . .

From page E1

NHI chair Ambeth Ocampo wrote to President Macapagal on Jan. 14: "Under PD 1505, it is unlawful to modify any features of any declared national shrines without prior written permission from the chairman of the National Historical Institute.

"The proposal by the Department of Tourism to erect a large statue of Lapu-lapu within the boundaries of Rizal Park, which as a whole has been designated a National Shrine, and disapproved twice. Among other things, it would dwarf the statue of our national hero, Dr. José Rizal, in the park named for him where he should be the central and commanding figure.

"Despite the NHI's disapproval, now resigned Department of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, in defiance of our letter of Jan. 5, went ahead and erected the monument.

"This is patently illegal and we request your intervention to prevent further breach of the law.

"Those who aspire to become lawgivers must show that they are not law breakers."

E-mail the author at afvillalon@hotmail.com

Carnal images of astonishing redness

By Constantino C. Tejero

WHEN you happen to pass by this gallery, you'd think it's still the Chinese New Year, as its walls are splattered with red and gold. And it's not just red—the color planes are of such redness that it astonishes.

"It's a color associated with sensuality, with sex," says painter Fernando Escora, the purveyor of these writhing images of love and lust.

Then you realize it's not the Chinese New Year but Valentine's that the artist is celebrating in "Amorous," his series of six pieces in oil on canvas in Crucible Gallery at the Artwalk, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, until Feb.15.

All symmetrical in composition, the paintings depict lithe naked bodies entwining. With titles like "Bicycle," "Butterfly," "Little Wings," you'd think these are explicit how-to illustrations of sexual positions. But Escora says they're actually about relationships.

"I started this series in 2002," says the artist. "It is explorative of sex, of liberated sexuality, but each piece portrays a principle of relationship."

"Equal" ostensibly shows two lovers in a 69 position, like a ball of flames in a sea of red—yet it can also be a comment on the equality of the sexes, and, yes, even in bed.

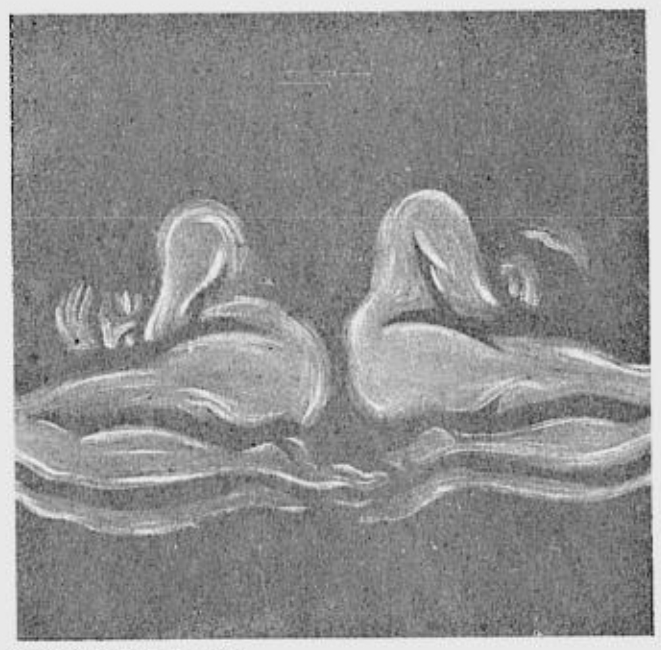
"Undecided," showing three lovers, is self-explanatory, while the multiple entanglements and impossible positions in "Bicycle" and "Butterfly" must be hinting at the complexity of relationships or the cyclical nature of love.

The two lovers in "Little Wings" are as impassioned as any. In their lovemaking they seem to fly a little, so that their feet appear dislocated.

The afterglow recedes as the two lovers in "Sleeping Together" turn their backs to each other presumably after sexual intercourse. This is a poignant comment on human nature. After all the avowals of love, soul-mating, physical union and consummation, it comes to this: Man is essentially alone.

Escora's style here looks new. He uses only two colors, which is a departure from his previous multihued works. And though the color tone is bright, the whole composition has a heaviness and solidity not found in the brightly colored figures of the past.

Also, unlike the previous paintings which often looked busy, these ones use minimal details. The naked bodies are mere outlines of flowing strokes and highlights of ochre, yellow, brown, on a solid color plane of brilliant red.



"SLEEPING Together"

The multiple entanglements and impossible positions hint at the complexity of relationships or the cyclical nature of love

"Maybe *ang* composition *nagbago*, also some elements of the figures, and now I'm using minimal colors," agrees the artist. "My style is always bright colors, *'yun lang*. There's no intention or self-consciousness on my part in using these colors, they just come out, just an expression of myself."

"EQUAL"

Two artists he admires the most are Michelangelo (for the figures) and National Artist Vicente Manansala (for color and composition, concept).

A graduate of Fine Arts major in Painting from University of the Philippines, he also acknowledges the role of his teachers in his artmaking: Roberto Chabet, Benjie Cabangis, Fildelacruz.

"Amorous" is the third of his successive exhibits of erotic paintings, after "Gestures" and "Moment." He is looking for a new direction for his art.

"'*Pag nagsawa na ako sa* series, I stop, *ayaw kong ulitin*," he says. "I explore other subject matters to tackle."

He is also into printmaking, which he learned from Fildelacruz. He also does children's book illustration—quite a turn from his erotica.

He has taken up Basic Photography in UP, and is planning to construct installations out of his paintings and photographs. And that would be another turn in the development of his art.

He is still exploring, you see, like anyone who is in love.

WOMEN ARTISTS AT GSIS MUSEUM

The GSIS Museum showcases "Weaving in Revolt," until March 9. It features the works of Allison Wong David, Deborah Del-Pan, Teresita Mapua and Molly Yap. These women weave their own stories of the journey away from the "campfire" of comfortable survival. The four women trained under well-known social realist Renato Habulan.

It's a super saver weekend at SM CITY NORTH EDSA

Enjoy the best of SM as THE CITY brings you its first super mallwide sale of the year on February 13, 14 and 15.

Treat your family and friends to a super saver weekend of great shopping that offers a wide selection of the hottest fashion, stylish home furnishings, latest I.T. gadgets, shelves upon shelves of fantastic grocery buys, stocks of baby essentials, sports gear, personal care products, fragrances, stationery and art supplies, novelty items, plus dozens of special treats.

MIDNIGHT BAZAAR

On February 13 and 14, The City's Midnight Bazaar will start from 6 pm to12. This exciting twist to the City's super value weekend sale event affords shoppers a chance to choose from an array of great bargains, even as they pause to treat themselves to a wide selection of food, music and other leisure activities that are part of SM City North Edsa.

SUPER mallwide SALE

Feb 13 • 14 • 15

50% off

on great selections

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

mall hours: 10am - 10pm

LOVE IN THE CITY

What better way to spend a red-letter day with your special friends than to be serenaded by a great artist and strings of romantic melodies. Value shopping, romantic dining, love songs...need we say more?

FEBRUARY 13
(Friday 5 pm)
An affair to remember with **PATTI AUSTIN**

FEBRUARY 14
(Saturday 4 pm)
STRING QUARTET
Performance

ALL NIGHT LONG

Now on its 19th year, SM City North Edsa continues to be the popular malling destination of Metro Manila northsiders. First to introduce the "Mall Concept" in the country, SM City North Edsa does more than offer one-stop shopping convenience. Together with the other members of the SM Supermalls chain, The City has become the mirror of the changing Filipino lifestyle.

Today SM City North Edsa houses fastfood establishments, gourmet restaurants, signature shops and specialty stores.

Visit the Cyberzone, the coolest tech-hub in SM City North Edsa. Get wired as you shop for the latest techie gadgets. Surf the net or simply chat with friends as you grab a bite at our Cyberzone's trendy internet cafes. If you're a mobile phone addict, you are in for the latest model.

Step into a refreshing oasis of greens and colorful blooms. The Garden in the City-located in front of the main building has been designed and landscaped to tempt you to tread the winding pathways surrounded by flowering plants and ornamental greens.

The Garden has trained landscapers and horticulturists to answer all your queries on how to make your garden look like a paradise in an urban setting.

Cybertone and The Garden photos courtesy of
Ground Floor Main Bldg

SM City North Edsa is a food tripper's paradise. In addition to the fast food delicacies offered by SM Foodcourt, shoppers can choose from a wide selection of restaurants,

pizza parlors, soda boutiques and bakeshops. Coffee shops offer a relaxing ambience where shoppers can relax with family & friends in between shopping.

As an added 3-Day Sale event, organize a bowling tournament with your family and friends at The SM Bowling Center located at the upper level of the Annex.

- **Get one (1) FREE GAME for a minimum of two (2) games played**

See the latest flicks at the SM CINEMA during the weekend sale.

- **Get FREE Movie Pass with every three (3) Movie Tickets purchased.**
- **Also get FREE Popcorn for every two (2) Large Softdrinks.**

Learn how to sustain a career in the arts

ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

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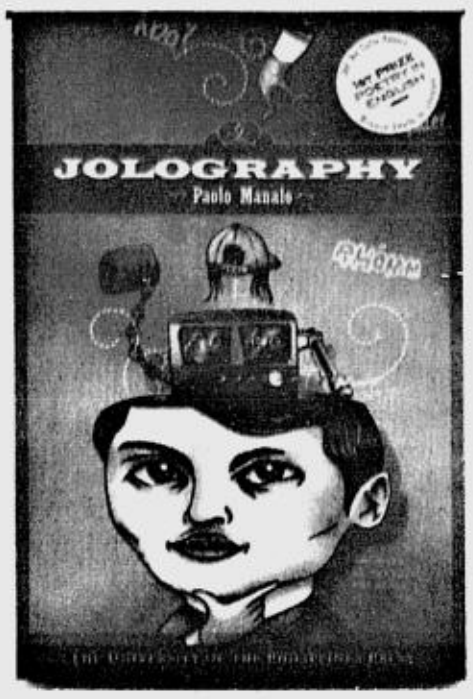


Four new titles from UP Press

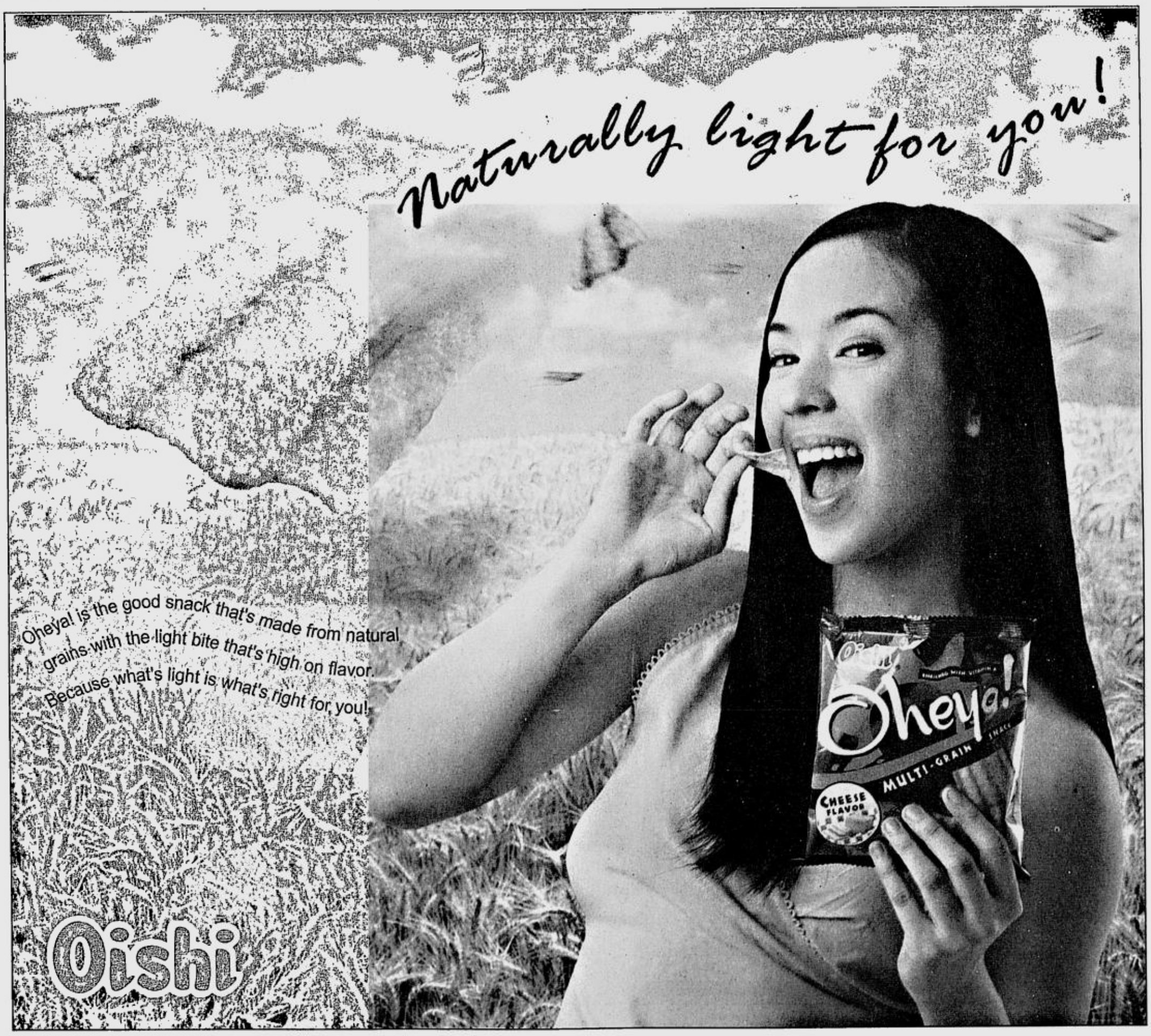
THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Press is launching four new literary titles at Cravings, Katipunan Avenue, on Feb. 10 at 5 p.m.

The books are "Feast and Famine: Stories of Negros" by Rosario Cruz-Lucero, "Jolography" by Paolo Manalo, "The Gaze: Poems" by Arvin Mangohig, and "Welostit and Other Stories" by Romina M. Gonzalez.

"Feast and Famine: Stories of Negros" is about life in Negros Occidental from the Spanish colonial period to the post-Marcos era.

"Jolography" is an experiment with language—playing with street idioms, local pop icons, translations, transliterations, puns, quotes and interpretations.

"The Gaze: Poems" has been praised as "astonishingly confident, demonstrating both daring and grace."

And in "Welostit and Other Stories," readers become voyeurs of the quirky human psyche.

All four books are available at the U.P. Press Bookstore at the Balay Kalinaw in U.P. Diliman, and at National Bookstore and Power Books branches.